Marcoses get death threats too, claims Imelda

Story on PAGE A2

Not funny, critics say of Gloria joke

BAKA JOKE DIN YUNG 'DI NA SIYA TATAKBO!

By G. Lacuarta and C. Avendaño

WHEN is she joking and when is she serious?

And if President Macapagal-Arroyo was joking about Lt. Gen. Narciso Abaya being the next Armed Forces chief

NOT/ A13

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

GMA asked to explain 'new' population tack

By Armand N. Nocum

A RANKING Catholic Church leader is uneasy over reports that Malacañang is about to launch a population program that relies heavily on contraceptives, which is frowned upon by the church.

Newly installed Novaliches Bishop Teodoro Bacani Jr. said he was bothered by the declaration of President Macapa-

GMA/ A13

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Saturday, January 25, 2003 ★★ 52 pages / 5 sections / vol. 18 / no. 48 P15 website: www.inq7.net

Hit squads on the loose

Gov't says communist assassins out to get prominent targets

By TJ Burgonio, Carlito Pablo and Alcuin Papa

A HIT SQUAD of the New People's Army with sights trained on prominent government officials has been on the loose since last year, officials said yesterday.

Both the police and military blamed the hit squad, the National Special Operations Group (NSOG) of the New People's Army, for the killings of ex-NPA chief Romulo "Rolly" Kintanar on Thursday and of ex-NPA leader Luis Reyes yesterday, which, they said, were part of a plot to destabilize the administration. *(See story on Page A15.)*

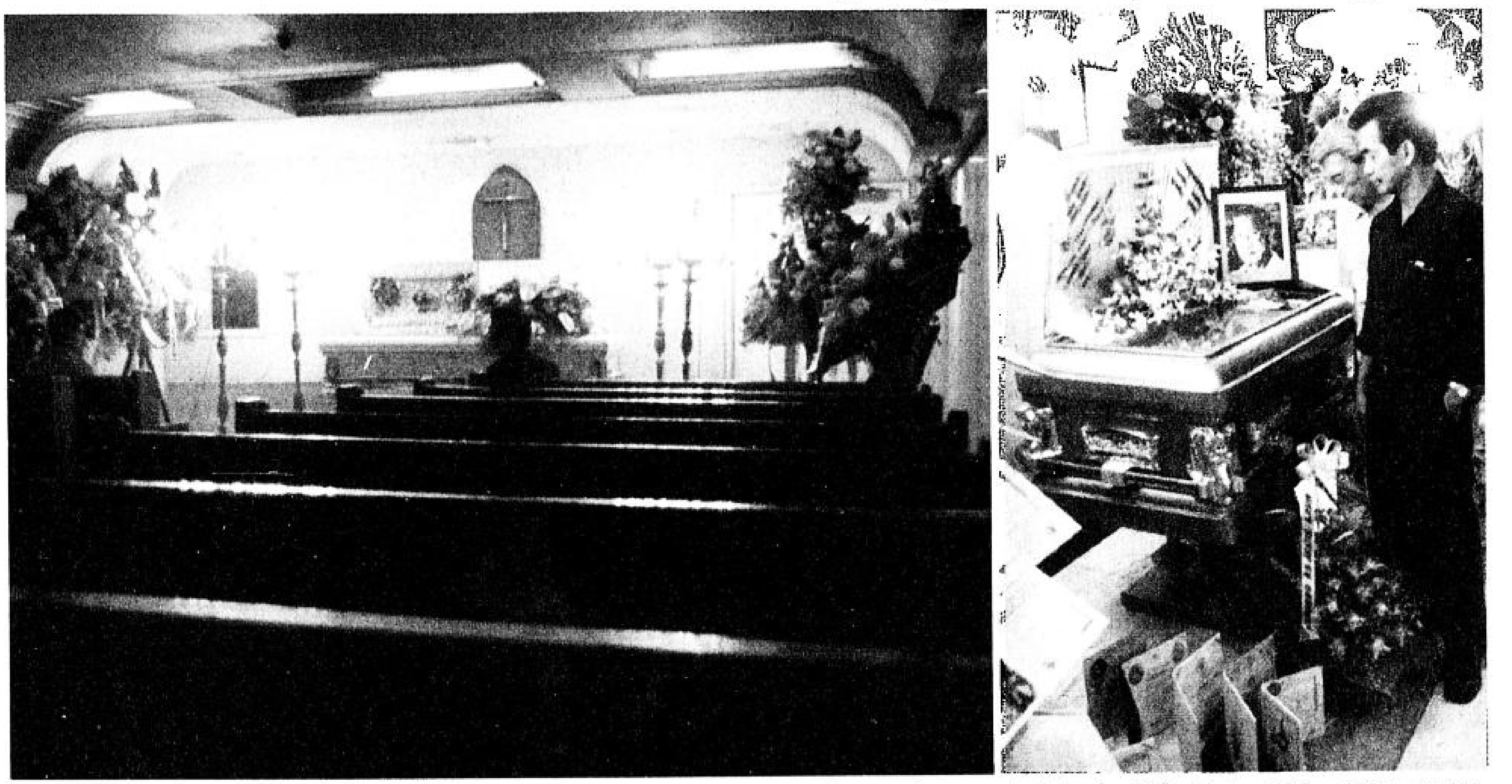
According to Chief Supt. Roberto Delfin, director for intelligence of the Philippine National Police, the NSOG is headed by NPA leader Leo Velasco. At least two teams have been fielded in Metro Manila to carry out the hit squad's goals, and the PNP has deployed its own teams to track these down, he said.

Arturo Tabara, chair of the breakaway Rebolusyonaryong Partidong Manggagawa-Pilipinas of which Kintanar was an adviser, said Velasco, national military affairs officer of the CPP/NPA "masterminded" Kintanar's assassination.

Tabara said this was the information relayed to him by sources in the communist movement and in the military.

The targets of the hit squad supposedly include Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, President Macapagal-Arroyo's chief of staff Rigoberto Tiglao, Delfin himself, military intelligence chief Col.

HIT SQUAD/ A15



TWO REVOLUTIONARIES at rest: Here, at the Funeraria Paz in Quezon City (above), lie the remains of former NPA chief, Rolly Kintanar who toward the end of his life sought the path to peace. The wake for Dr. Jesus Lava, the former secretary general of the "old" communist party, who died on Jan. 21, is at the Loyola Memorial Chapels. His son Jesus Jr. (in black shirt) and son-in-law Gener Cedilla pay their respects. He was 88. *(Story on Page A2)*

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN / ROMY HOMILLADA

Joma as top suspect: Don't look at me

JOSE Ma. Sison thinks he is "being given too much credit" as the primary suspect of the military and police in the killing of Romulo Kintanar.

In a statement e-mailed from the Netherlands, where he has lived in self-exile since the 1980s, the founding chair of the Communist Party of the Philippines said suspicion could be directed at "the criminal world of military and police operatives" in which Kintanar supposedly had "too many rivals and enemies."

"It is idle and malicious for anyone to speculate or insinuate that I have something to do with the killing . . . " he said. "I am being given too much credit."

Sison said Kintanar, former chief of the CPP's armed wing, the New People's Army, had committed crimes against the communist movement and consequently "made himself liable for punishment."

But if "any revolutionary force" were indeed behind the killing, he said, "it would likely admit responsibility in due time."

JOMA/ A15

Tiglao on hit list, GMA confirms

By Carlito Pablo

SECURITY has been tightened for the most prominent former communist in President Macapagal's Cabinet following the assassination of former New People's Army chieftain, Romulo Kintanar.

But Malacañang chief of staff Rigoberto Tiglao said he will not be terrorized and declared he would be "more than willing to fight and die for our nation." He hailed Kintanar as a Filipino hero who took the path of peace in his

TIGLAO/ A14

Peace talks to continue despite Kintanar slay

By Carlito Pablo and Jovelyn Reyes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

"LET the peace talks continue."

Despite strong suspicions that the communist rebels were behind the assassination of former New People's Army chief Romulo Kintanar, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said that her administration will stay the course toward peace.

"These separate incidents will not hinder our efforts to seek peace," President Macapagal told reporters.

The President, however, called on the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), the NPA, and their umbrella organization, the National Democratic Front, to "abandon the use of terrorist means" to achieve their political goals.

Ms Macapagal urged them to "enter the path of peace and progress" by rejoining mainstream society.

The President said that the Cabinet Oversight Committee on Internal Security has already finished its review of a draft of a proposed final peace agreement with the CPP-NPA-NDF.

Ms Macapagal said that she's waiting for the committee's recommendations before the draft is sent to the CPP.

PEACE/ A14

Torture persists in RP, Amnesty Int'l reports

By Stella O. Gonzales

TORTURE continues to be a widespread practice in the Philippines despite international and domestic legal safeguards put in place by the government.

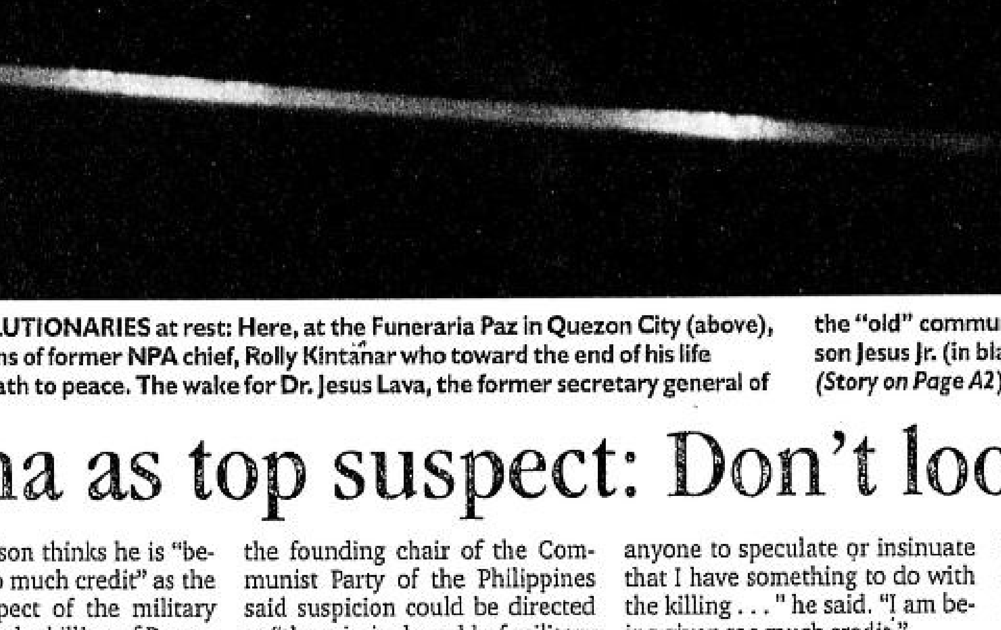
This was the conclusion of the human rights group and Nobel Peace Prize awardee Amnesty International in its report on the Philippines. Entitled "Torture Persists: Appearance and Reality Within the Criminal Justice System," the report was launched yesterday.

"The persistence of torture and ill-treatment in the Philippines today, despite the broad array of legal and institutional human rights safeguards instituted since the ousting of former President Ferdinand Marcos in 1986, highlights a serious discrepancy between the law and its application within the criminal justice system by law enforcement agencies," AI said.

AI said torture techniques employed by law enforcement authorities remained consistent over the past three decades.

"The government of the Philippines must take immediate steps to prevent torture and ill-treatment in custody," AI stressed. "Urgent action is required to break the cycle of im-

TORTURE/ A13



NEITHER race nor age is a barrier to the Family of Man as exemplified by couple Andrew and Jane Kiura from Kenya who delight in Maria Lourdes Macion of Cotabato during the Fourth World Meeting of Families, which is now on its fourth day.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Newborn girl is youngest in World Families meet

By Armand Nocum

THE 43RD—and youngest—infant delegate to the Fourth World Meeting of Families (FWMF) was born yesterday.

Baby girl Maria Jose was born to parents Rose and Rodrigo Alenton, both delegates, to the five-day meeting. She is their 10th child.

The Alenton couple had to excuse themselves from the FWMF's three-day international theological and pastoral congress when Rose, a retired staff worker at the University of the East-Ramon Magsaysay (UERM) Hospital, went into labor yesterday morning.

"We thank God for giving us our 10th baby on the third day of the international meeting of families," Rodrigo, a Cagayan de Oro-based doctor, told reporters in a phone interview from UERM.

The couple's oldest child is 20 and the youngest, before the new baby was born, one and a half years old.

Priests and delegates attending the FWMF hailed the birth of Maria Jose—for Mary and Joseph—as the strongest statement yet for the gift of life.

In his sermon during the Mass at the end of the FWMF's international theological and pastoral congress, Papal Legate Alfonso Cardinal Lopez Trujillo summed up the elation felt by all those taking part in the family meet.

"Today a baby is born from one of our family participants, congratulations... A child should bring a family great joy, each child is not a burden," he said.

Flock wants Brother Mike to stay out of politics

By Armand N. Nocum

IF IT does happen it will be like a group of children breaking off ties with their father.

The Catholic Church-backed religious group El Shaddai will drop its leader and founder, Mike Velarde, should he change his mind and decide to run for public office.

Newly installed Novaliches Bishop Teodoro Bacani Jr. said Velarde was under strong pressure from his flock of 8 million to take a nonpartisan stand in the 2004 elections.

"If he runs, *ang El Shaddai ang lalaban sa kanya* (the El Shaddai will fight him)," said Bacani, spiritual adviser of the charismatic group.

During a press briefing at the Fourth World Meeting of Families, Bacani said El Shaddai members have already made their position clear on the issue when Velarde posed the question to them during the Estrada administration.

"They prefer a nonpartisan Mike Velarde," Bacani said.

Bacani admitted that some members of

FLOCK/ A13

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Second FrontPage

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/01/25/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Marcoses get death threats–Imelda

By Volt C. Contreras

THE FAMILY of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos has been receiving death threats lately, and is the main reason why the Marcos widow, Imelda, canceled a planned trip to the United States to seek medical treatment, a lawyer said yesterday.

Lawyer Robert Sison told the Sandiganbayan anti-graft court in a statement that the threats had kept the 73-year-old Imelda from leaving the country in the one-month period given her by the Sandiganbayan that is hearing several graft cases against her.

Copies of the statement were distributed to reporters yesterday.

Last month, the Sandiganbayan's 3rd, 4th and 5th divisions allowed Imelda to seek treatment in hospitals in New York, California and Washington for her various ailments.

Imelda said she needed follow-up checkups for hypertension, diabetes and glaucoma.

She was given leave for a month, from Dec. 16, 2002 to Jan. 16, 2003, but ordered to appear in court five days after her return.

In the lawyer's manifestation, dated Jan. 22, Imelda said "poor health, not to mention recurring threats to (my) life and family" prevented her from leaving the country.

She also asked the Sandiganbayan to dispense with her required court appearance "in view of the death threats (she) and her family have been receiving lately."

Her daughter Rep. Imee Marcos said her mother was referring to a threat made by Communist Party of the Philippines spokesperson, Gregorio Rosal, in media interviews that the rebels would kidnap a family member.

IMELDA Marcos: She canceled planned trip to the United States following the death threats on her family. PDI PHOTO

Imelda aired her fears for herself and her family's safety three weeks after a bomb explosion defaced the giant concrete bust of Ferdinand Marcos along a highway in Benguet province.

Leftist guerrillas have claimed responsibility for the Dec. 29, 2002 bombing.

Imelda is facing dozens of criminal charges and civil lawsuits over allegations that she, her husband and associates illegally amassed more than $5 billion during his two decades in power. She has denied any wrongdoing. *With report by Reuters*

Old rebel dies
Last of the Lava brothers

JESUS Lava, the former secretary general of the Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas (the "old" Communist Party of the Philippines), is dead. He was 88.

Lava, the medical doctor turned revolutionary, died on Jan. 21 from undiagnosed prostate cancer.

His remains lie at the Loyola Memorial Chapels in Makati.

A scion of a prominent Bulacan family of landowners, Jesus Lava was the least likely of the five Lava sons to join the revolutionary movement, according to Jose Dalisay, the Lava family biographer.

"He was a nationalist, a doctor who believed that he could help society by (curing) society's ills itself," said Dalisay yesterday.

Graduating from the University of the Philippines College of Medicine in 1938, Lava was merely involved in treating Filipino guerrillas and US servicemen during the initial phases of World War II.

But the Lavas became inevitably caught up in the political ferment of the 1930s. The three Lava brothers—Vicente, Jose and Jesus—joined the PKP, which had been founded in 1930, and would rise to the leadership of the movement.

"They never expected him (Jesus) to join, but when he joined, he took his job seriously... He was more practical, not an ideologue although he had a firm grasp of political realities and exigencies..." said Dalisay.

Jesus, the youngest brother, would have a direct hand in the operations of the PKP well into the 1960s when he was captured and imprisoned.

But after the war, Lava was a believer in the electoral process, running for congressman and winning in the first district of Bulacan under the Democratic Alliance, an alliance of peasants, workers, intellectuals and some middle-class individuals fighting for genuine independence.

DR. Jesus Lava: He was deemed the least likely of the five Lava sons to join the revolutionary movement. PDI PHOTO

A few months later, he and the other DA congressmen were ousted from Congress on trumped-up charges of fraud. When a peasant leader was abducted and later turned up dead, Jesus took to the hills.

He was PKP secretary general from 1950 to May 21, 1964, when he was captured. He was released in a general amnesty in 1974.

Long before Lava's capture, however, morale in the PKP had sunk and the Huks had degenerated into small roving bands.

In 1968, Jose Ma. Sison led a reestablished Communist Party of the Philippines, declaring itself apart from the old PKP.

During his detention, Lava developed a keen interest in psychic healing and experimented with hypnosis. After his release, he became research director of the Philippine Society for Psychic Healing. He co-authored two books on the field. He was also asked to give the annual lecture on alternative healing for medical students by the UP Department of Pharmacology.

Malacañang told: 'It's not the time to celebrate'

DILANGALEN

By Christine O. Avendaño

AN OPPOSITION congressman yesterday cautioned Malacañang against dismissing as dead the impeachment complaint a group wants to file against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"It's not the time to celebrate," said Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen in reaction to Palace officials' statement that the complaint of Koalisyon, a new alliance of groups opposed to President Macapagal, was "dead" since not even one opposition lawmaker was willing to endorse it.

Dilangalen, who was deputized by the House minority to study the complaint, reiterated that they would decide in two weeks whether or not to endorse the complaint.

The complaint, which was signed by former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile and People's Consultative Assembly Linda Montayre, has yet to be filed due to the absence of a resolution of endorsement by a congressman.

It accuses the President of culpable violation of the Constitution, betrayal of the public trust, bribery and graft and corruption.

Montayre said yesterday that three or five more "serious" charges against the President would be included in the complaint.

'Kabayan' slams anti-press provision in dirty money law

By Cynthia D. Balana
and Christine Avendaño

BROADCAST journalist Sen. Noli "Kabayan' de Castro has found an issue after his own heart.

During deliberations yesterday to amend the Anti-Money Laundering Law, De Castro fastened on a provision in the law that would penalize members of the media for reporting on the investigations of the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC).

The senator argued, that this amounted to prior restraint on the media and ran counter to constitutional guarantees on the freedom of speech and expression.

Saying that he feared for his media colleagues who could run afoul of the provision, De Castro said senators should heed his warning when they take up the amendments to the law.

Congress is working against a Feb. 12 deadline for working amendments into the AMLA which the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force deemed does not go far enough in its measures against money laundering. Failure to come up with the needed amendments would place the Philippines at the receiving end of punitive sanctions from the FATF's member countries.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said that one of the amendments to be taken up involved lowering the threshold amount for reporting suspicious transactions from P4 million to P500,000.

He said the senators have yet to agree on the definition of "suspicious transaction" and the acceptable threshold for reporting such transactions.

But he said work on the amendments was "substantially progressing." The final voting on the bill has been set for Feb. 3.

"We're confident that we'll be able to meet the deadline way ahead of schedule and we'll come up with a legislation that will answer the needs of our people," Drilon said.

The House could start tackling in plenary next week its own set of proposed amendments to AMLA, said Rep. Jaime Lopez, chair of the House committee on banks and financial intermediaries.

Lopez said the three House committees working on the proposed amendments have "agreed in principle" on the changes and would be ready to submit their committee report on Tuesday.

This would enable the rules committee to include the amendments in the chamber's order of business, Lopez said.

Congress has only six session days to come up with the amendments before Feb. 12.

In a phone interview, Lopez said the "prevailing consensus" among the committee members was to accede to the key demands of the FATF, that is, lowering the threshold for the automatic reporting of transactions allowing the law's monitoring body, the AMLC, to probe bank accounts without requiring a court order.

Lopez said legislators would agree to waiving the court order "provided there are some restrictions." He said these details were still to be worked out by the committees.

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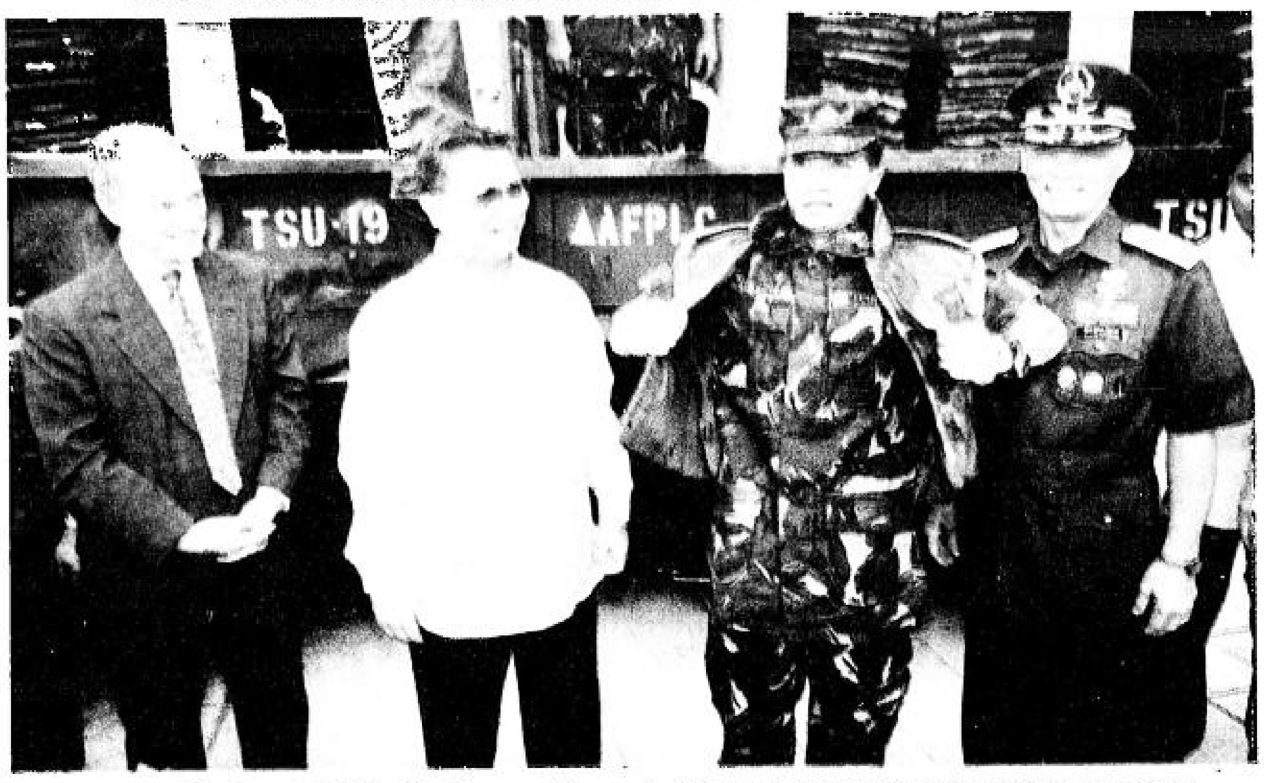

RENTED armor. Air Force Staff Sgt. Allan Magnaye tries on the US-made armor vests while US Embassy charge d'affaires Joseph Mussomeli (left), Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Dionisio Santiago (right) look on during the turnover ceremony at Camp Aguinaldo on Friday. Mussomeli turned over to Reyes the armor vests that will be loaned for one year under the Philipine-US Military Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA) while American military advisers train Filipino soldiers in counter-terrorism. AFP

More hi-tech gear expected from US

THE PHILIPPINE military is expecting to get more logistics assistance and modern equipment through a special accord with the United States, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said yesterday.

Reyes made the announcement as he formally received 500 pieces of body armor, supplied to the Philippines under the Mutual Logistics and Support Agreement (MLSA) with Washington.

"This occasion underscores the multitude of benefits that our armed forces can gain through the MLSA. Not only does it improve the (military's) logistics capability, it is also in line with the thrusts of the modernization program of our armed forces," Reyes said.

"I'm certain that you will be seeing more tangible results from this agreement in the foreseeable future," he added.

Reyes also said the defense department would continue to support programs that resulted in the improvement of the poorly-equipped Philippine military.

The MLSA, which was approved last year, makes it easier for the Philippines to obtain critical defense equipment from the United States in exchange for allowing US forces to source logistics and base equipment here. *AFP*

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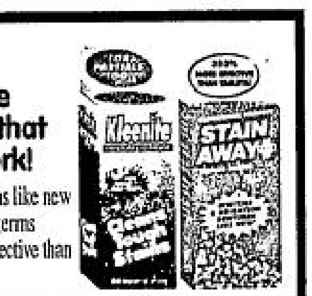

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3 Indon hostages spotted in Abu lair

THREE Indonesian sailors and four Filipino women held hostage by the Muslim extremist Abu Sayyaf group have been spotted with at least three guerrilla leaders, a military spokesperson said yesterday.

Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero said government informants on Tuesday saw the group on the southern part of Jolo island, an Abu Sayyaf stronghold.

He said the hostages were escorted by Abu Sayyaf chief Khadafi Abubakar Janjalani, one-armed leader Radullan Sahiron and a senior member known as Dr. Abu, together with several wounded Abu Sayyaf members. Lucero declined to give further details.

Janjalani and Sahiron are among five Abu Sayyaf leaders wanted by the United States in connection with the killings of two American hostages. The US government has offered a $5-million reward for information leading to their arrest and conviction, and has placed the Abu Sayyaf on its list of terrorist organizations.

Dr. Abu carries a P5-million bounty from the Philippine government.

The three Indonesian tugboat crewmen and four Filipino members of the evangelist group Jehovah's Witnesses were kidnapped separately on Jolo last year. *AP*

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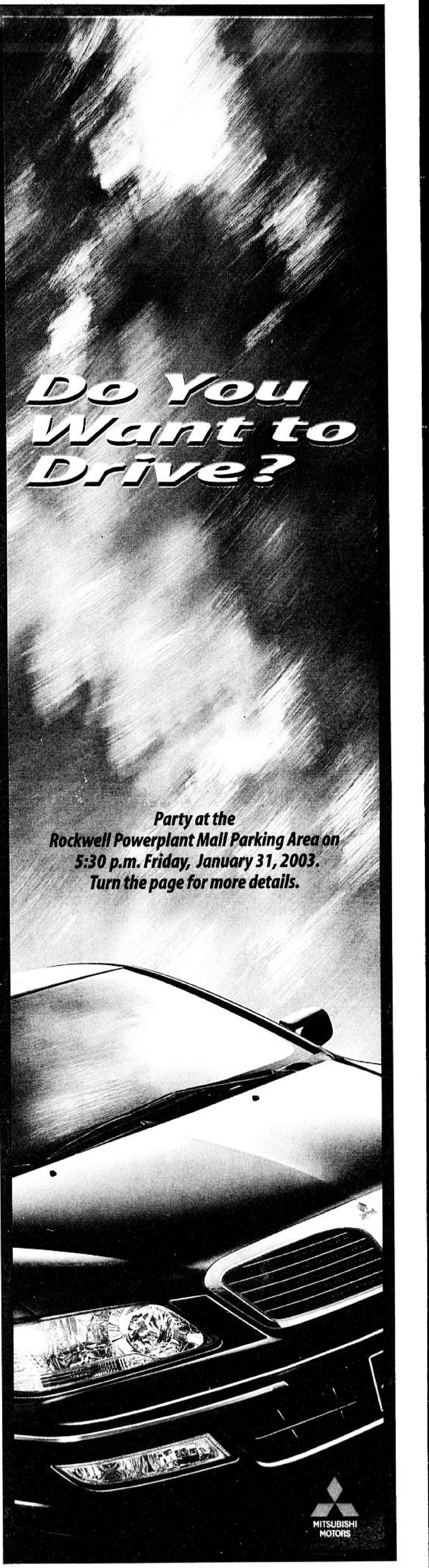

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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

Saudi gov't rejects Nur plea for help

THE SAUDI Arabian government said yesterday it would not intercede on behalf of Muslim leader Nur Misuari, who is in jail on charges of plotting a deadly rebellion in 2001.

Misuari, the former leader of the former separatist group Moro National Liberation Front, in December asked for the Saudi government's support to convince the Philippine government to set him free.

But Saudi Arabian ambassador Saleh Mohammad Al-Ghamdi rejected Misuari's appeal, saying he did not want to interfere with the Philippine internal affairs.

"The position of Saudi Arabia on the Misuari case is that it is an internal affair of the Republic of the Philippines which is now being deliberated by the Philippine Court.

"As such, we refrained and continue to refrain from meddling in it," Al-Ghamdi said.

Armed followers of Misuari from the MNLF in 2001 led a short-lived rebellion in his island stronghold of Jolo after he was ousted as governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

More than 100 people were killed in the violence and Misuari fled to Malaysia, where he was arrested and later deported to the Philippines. He is now in jail inside Fort Sto. Domingo, a sprawling police camp in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, while being tried for rebellion. *AFP*

MISUARI: Stuck in Sta. Rosa jail

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Caltex raises pump prices again, the third this month

By Ronnel W. Domingo

OIL giant Caltex Philippines yesterday announced an increase of 55 centavos in the price of a liter gasoline and 45 centavos for diesel and kerosene, effective at 6 last night.

The latest round of hikes—for the third time this month—brought Caltex's January increases to a total of P1.64 for gasoline and P1.04 for diesel and kerosene.

Caltex officials cited the steep rise in raw materials and product prices over the last few weeks in raising pump prices anew.

"Regional finished product prices for diesel and unleaded gasoline have gone up by about $3 per barrel compared to last month," Caltex said in a statement.

Pressures on supply, demand and competition were pushing up global prices, it said, noting that nearby countries took similar price changes.

Data from the Department of Energy show that average Dubai crude prices jumped to $25.73 per barrel in December, from $23.31 in November.

On the other hand, the peso lost 16 centavos, with the exchange rate registering at P53.48 to the dollar in December, from P53.32 in November.

Virginia Ruivivar, corporate communications manager of Petron Corp., said the company would no longer raise prices this month.

Ruivivar echoed an earlier statement of Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., which said the company was monitoring international prices for the rest of January and that any further price changes would be implemented in February.

Eastern Petroleum Corp. and Unioil Philippines Petroleum Inc. both said they would decide next week whether to adjust prices.

TotalFinaElf Philippines and Seaoil Philippines Inc. said they had no plans to increase prices as yet.

The last round of price hikes started on Jan. 18, with local oil firms adding 60 centavos to the price of a liter of gasoline.

The companies raised the prices of gasoline, diesel and kerosene by 49 centavos on Jan. 3.

Meralco: 10-year supply deal with Napocor 'not enforceable'

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE MANILA Electric Co. yesterday claimed that a 10-year supply contract it had with the National Power Corp. was "not enforceable" and therefore it was not liable to pay P14 billion in fines for failing to buy the minimum amount of electricity stipulated in the contract.

Meralco president Jesus P. Francisco said Meralco had been told by its legal advisers that the contract might not be enforceable, prompting the utility company to send Napocor a notice of termination early this year.

"Even if the contract were enforceable, the penalties should be much smaller than what Napocor slapped on us," Francisco said in an interview.

On Thursday, Napocor president Rogelio Murga said Meralco owed the state firm P14 billion in fines for not buying at least 3,600 megawatts of electricity each month as provided for in the supply contract. The contract is supposed to end in 2004.

"Meralco has to honor the contract," Murga said.

Francisco claimed that since Meralco and Napocor officials were in the process of negotiating a transition supply contract, this had rendered the 10-year agreement ineffective.

The Electric Power Industry Reform Act provides for transition contracts to be in place six months after the law's passage in June 2001.

The transition contract would cover the period between the passage of the law and the implementation of full deregulation in the distribution sector, which the law says should come as early as 2004.

Napocor officials said that Meralco had been reducing purchases from the state firm and buying more from independent power producers (IPPs).

On Tuesday, Meralco said in a statement that 60 percent of its supply needs in December came from Napocor while 40 percent came from IPPs First Gas Power Corp. and Quezon Power Phil.—both said to be sister companies of Meralco—and Duracom.

Meralco data show that the contracted 3,600 MW minimum purchase is about 83 percent of the utility's monthly supply requirements of 4,300 MW.

Meralco's chief of utility economics Ivanna dela Peña claimed in a separate interview that a provision in the 10-year supply contract allowed for the quantity of Meralco's purchases from Napocor to be adjusted during an economic downturn.

The state-run National Transmission Corp. has said that the recent increase in transmission charges to Meralco came about because of the utility's reduced use of electricity from Napocor.

The Transco clarification was issued in response to a Meralco claim that an increase in its electricity rates was caused by the increase in purchased power adjustment (PPA) charges which was in turn caused by higher transmission rates.

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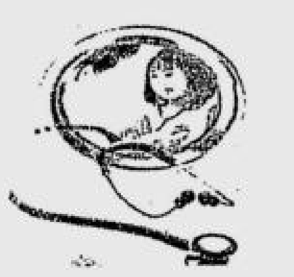


SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

DAY 1 (FEBRUARY 3, 2003)		DAY 2 (FEBRUARY 4, 2003)	
7:00-9:00 am	**REGISTRATION**	8:00-9:00 am	**REGISTRATION**
9:00-9:45 am	**PLENARY LECTURE I:** **The Wonder Years: Concepts and Theories of Child Development** (Dr. Oscar Purugganan)	9:00-9:45 am	**PLENARY LECTURE III:** **The Role of the Pediatrician in Screening Development Disabilities** (Dr. Oscar Purugganan)
9:45-10:00 am	**BREAK**	9:45-10:00 am	**BREAK**
	SYMPOSIA I: Respiratory Tract Disorders "Chicken Soup for the Respiratory Soul"		**SYMPOSIA III: GI Nutrition** "Eat All You Can"
10:00-10:15 am	**Sinusitis: 10-Day Rule** (Dr. Peter R. Jarin)	10:00-10:15 am	**Diet and Dental Health** (Dr. Carina Mabanta-delos Reyes)
10:15-10:30 am	**Allergic Rhinitis** (Dr. Eileen Alikpala-Cuajunco)	10:15-10:30 am	**Complementary Feeding** (Dr. Elizabeth Gabriel-Martinez)
10:30-10:45 am	**Atypical Pneumonia** (Dr. Ma. Liza Maniquis-Gonzales)	10:30-10:45 am	**Dietary Indiscretion in the Adolescent** (Dr. Agnes Bretana-Teotico)
10:45-11:00 am	**Question and Answer Forum**	10:45-11:00 am	**Question and Answer Forum**
11:00-1:00 pm	**SATELLITE LECTURES / LUNCH**	11:00-1:00 pm	**SATELLITE LECTURES / LUNCH**
	SATELLITE LECTURE A: **Otitis Media – The Painful Ear** (Dr. Rina Reyes-Quintos)		**SATELLITE LECTURE C:** **Rapid Diagnostic Tests** (Dr. Salvacion Rodriguez-Gatchalian)
	SATELLITE LECTURE B: **Anticipatory Guidance Package for the OPD** (Dr. Florianne Francisco-Valdes)		**SATELLITE LECTURE D:** **Nutrition** (Dr. Felizardo N. Gatcheco)
1:00-2:00 pm	**Visit to Commercial Exhibits**	1:00-2:00 pm	**Visit to Commercial Exhibits**
2:00-2:45 pm	**PLENARY LECTURE II:** **Substance and Drug Abuse** (Dr. Monica Cardinez)		**SYMPOSIA IV: Miscellaneous Problems in an Urban Setting** "Organic Smorgasboard"
2:45-3:00 pm	**BREAK**	2:00-2:15 pm	**Environmental Health Issues** (Dr. Alexander O. Tuazon)
	SYMPOSIA II: Preventive Pediatrics "An Apple a Day Keeps The Doctor Away"	2:15-2:30 pm	**Dermatologic Issues** (Dr. Rowena Romero-Francisco)
3:00-3:15 pm	**Cardiopulmonary Clearance** (Dr. Olympia Quimba-Malanyaon)	2:30-2:45 pm	**Sports and Orthopedic Issues** (Dr. Celso F. Bate)
3:15-3:30 pm	**Immunization (Ambulatory)** (Dr. Lester A. Deniega)	2:45-3:00 pm	**Question and Answer Forum**
3:30-3:45 pm	**Child Protection: Recognition of Child Sexual Abuse** (Dr. Rosalia Mumpar-Buzon)	3:00-3:45 pm	**PLENARY LECTURE IV:** **Out-patient TB Package** (Dr. Eduardo Banzon)
3:45-4:00 pm	**Question and Answer Forum**		

25 YEARS

February 3-4, 2003
Club Filipino
Greenhills, San Juan

Kidnapped girl rescued

By Edwin O. Fernandez
and Jeffrey M. Tupas
PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—The 13-year-old daughter of a wealthy Cagayan de Oro trader was rescued here yesterday and five members of the Pentagon kidnap gang were arrested by the anti-kidnapping task force, the military said.

The girl, who was abducted in Cagayan de Oro City on Jan. 8, was rescued during a raid in a house in San Pablo Village, barangay Rosary Heights XI here, after a brief gun battle.

"She is now in safe hands, she's okay," Maj. Gen. Generoso Senga, of the Army's 6th Infantry Division. He said the girl had dropped to the floor at the sound of shooting and was unharmed.

Soldiers are pursuing the remaining five suspects.

Reports that one of those who managed to flee was Pentagon leader Tahir Alonto, who carries a bounty of P250,000, could not be verified.

Also being hunted is Danny Abdullah and his wife Sheena. Abdullah was the one who reportedly snatched the girl while she was having a noon break inside her school in Cagayan de Oro City.

Abdullah and his wife were said to have befriended the girl's father by posing as a dealer in gold bars and US Treasury bonds. The father apparently fell into the trap, a friend of the family said.

The kidnappers at first demanded that the family pay P3 million in ransom but later brought it down to P80,000.

Two attempts to deliver the ransom fell through.

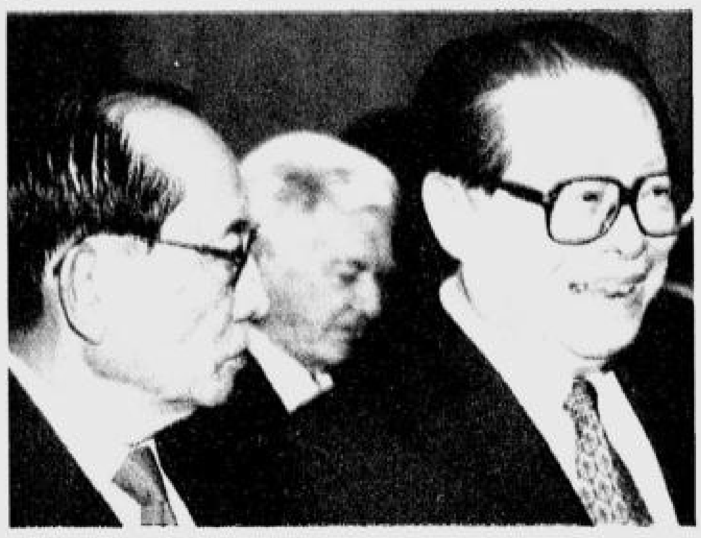
Initial investigation showed that the girl was first brought to Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao and then moved here.

San Pablo subdivision residents who became alarmed when they noticed that an abandoned house suddenly began to fill up with men notified the authorities.

Based on the residents' tip, the military planned the early morning raid.

Asean assures tourists

Tourism ministers meet in Phnom Penh



BEIJING MEET Former Philippine President Fidel Ramos chats with Chinese President Jiang Zemin in Beijing Friday. Ramos heads the Boao Forum group, a body formed to deal with the economic and social challenges facing Asia and encouraging regional exchanges and economic growth. At center is former Australian prime minister Bob Hawke. AFP

PHNOM PENH—Southeast Asian tourism ministers kicked off a four-day conference here on Friday to draw up plans to promote the region as a safe tourism destination.

Regional tourism has taken a hit since October's terrorist attacks on the Indonesian island of Bali that killed nearly 200 people. In the attacks' aftermath, foreign governments, including the United States, Britain and Australia, issued travel advisories to the dismay of Southeast Asian nations who rely heavily on tourism revenues.

Hoping to counteract negative foreign assessments, the ministers said they plan "to create a web site on tourism safety and security to provide precise and timely information for travelers, public, media as well as foreign governments in response to travelers' concern on safety and security."

The plan was in a draft joint statement obtained by the Associated Press before its scheduled release later Friday.

Ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations were participating in the conference.

Asean comprises Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Burma, Thailand, the Philippines, Singapore and Vietnam.

The ministers were scheduled to hold talks later yesterday with counterparts from China, Japan and South Korea. *AP*

Germans await GMA March trip to Berlin

By N. Bordadora

THE GERMAN business community is looking forward to discuss pouring more investments in the Philippines when President Macapagal-Arroyo goes to Berlin in March for a state visit.

Ambassador Herbert Jess said German companies in the country continue to be satisfied with the return on their investments in the Philippines.

Jess met with Foreign Secretary Blas Ople on Thursday to discuss the President's visit to the German capital that will also take her to several countries Europe.

"German business continues to be interested in the Philippines. We have 150 years of business history with the Philippines and we have over 140 German companies in the Philippines who are very satisfied and are very happy to be in the Philippines," Jess said.

Ople said that the ambassador announced that the German people, the business groups in particular, are eagerly waiting for the President's visit.

"He said that Germany intends to continue its development cooperation with the Philippines," Ople said.

Germany currently ranks third in giving development assistance to the Philippines.

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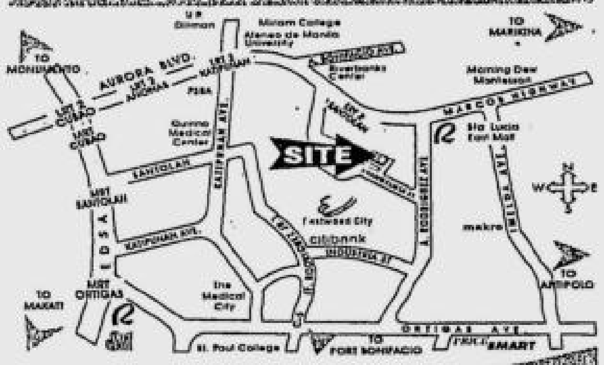

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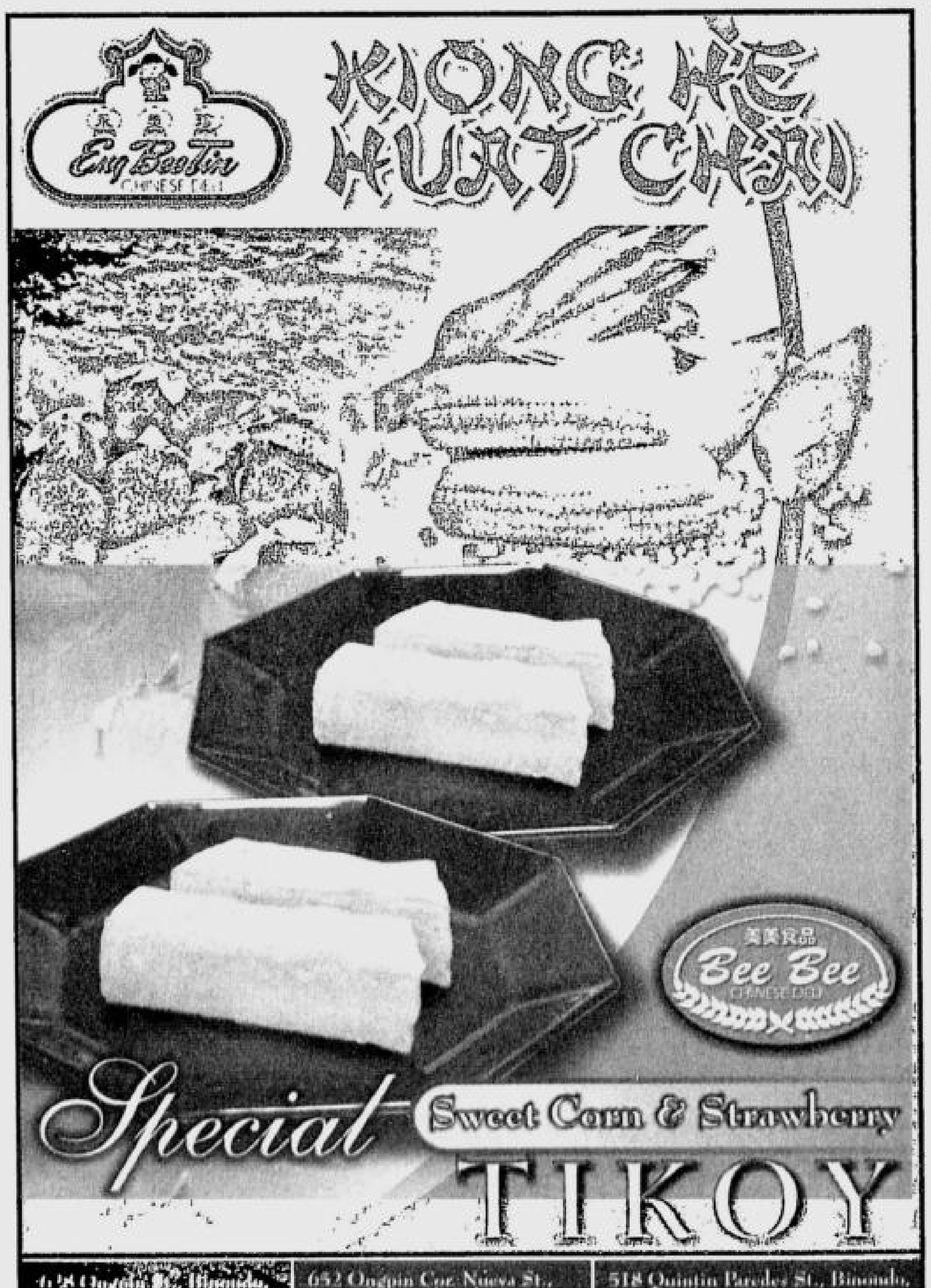

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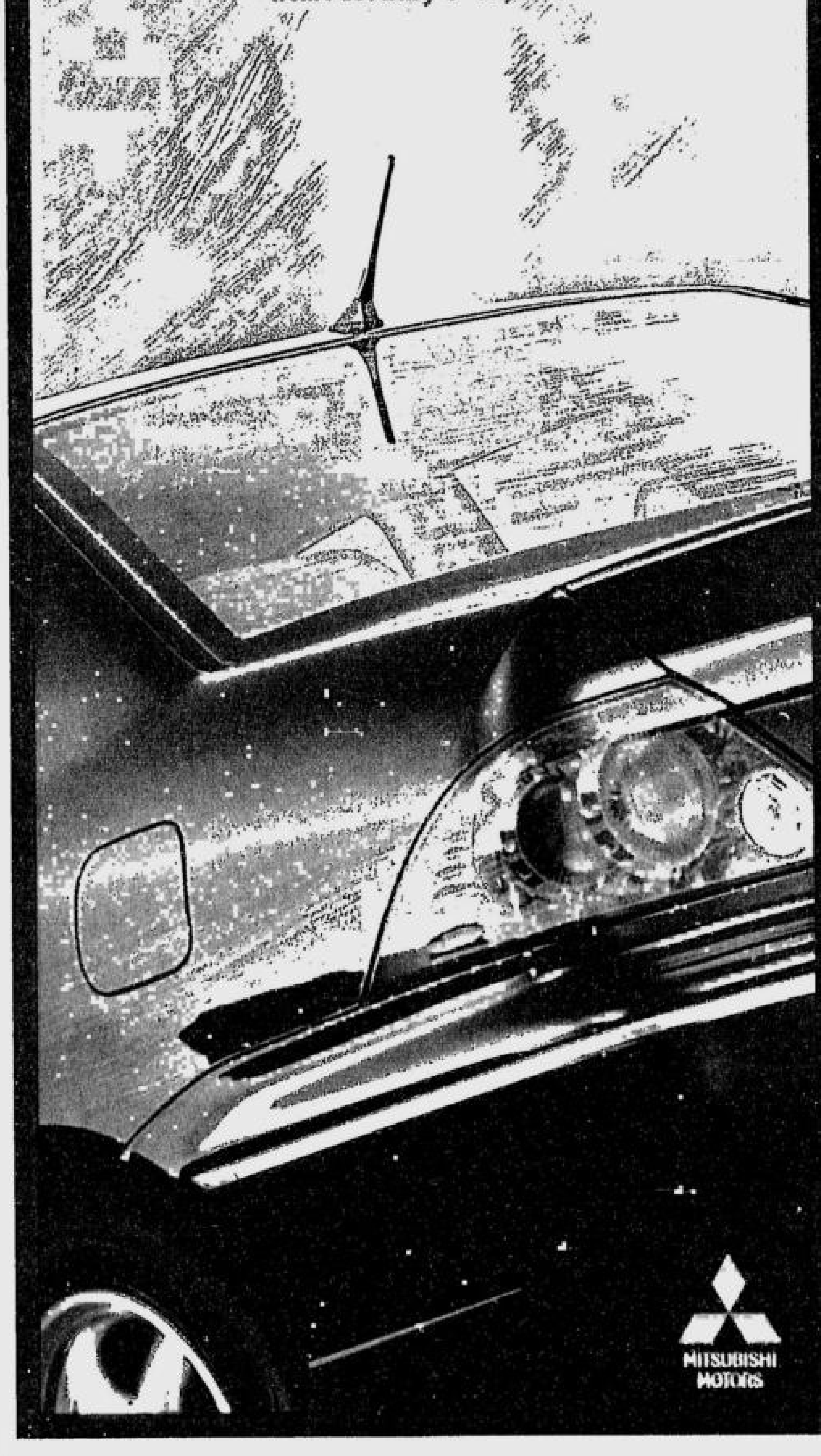

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OPINION

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Death of a 'rejectionist'

EDITORIAL

THE ASSASSINATION of the former New People's Army chief, Romulo Kintanar, the other day has all the marks of a professional terrorist hit as perfected by the Mafia and more recently al-Qaida. The target was carefully studied and a lightning attack was made by strategically placed gunmen who quickly disappeared from the scene.

Authorities have blamed the assassination on the power struggle inside the Philippine communist movement. Kintanar was killed a year after his old comrade, Filemon "Popoy" Lagman, was shot dead inside the University of the Philippines campus in Diliman, Quezon City. Both Kintanar and Lagman belonged to the so-called "rejectionist" faction of the Communist Party of the Philippines which broke away from the "affirmist" faction identified with Jose Ma. Sison, who is now based in the Netherlands.

Sison has denied responsibility for the assassination of Kintanar, although it is a fact that he had denounced him for deviating from the strategy of "protracted armed struggle" to win the revolution. While Sison should be given the benefit of the doubt, what is undeniable is that the communist revolution in this country, which is now the longest running communist insurgency in Asia, has been devouring its own children. If it is true that Kintanar's assassination was the handiwork of his fellow communists, the murder adds another frame to the bloody mosaic of purges that have characterized upheavals inside the party. Such purges assumed massive proportions in the "killing fields" of the 1980s, when cadres suspected of having served as government spies were executed and buried in mass graves in Davao, Negros and other parts of the country.

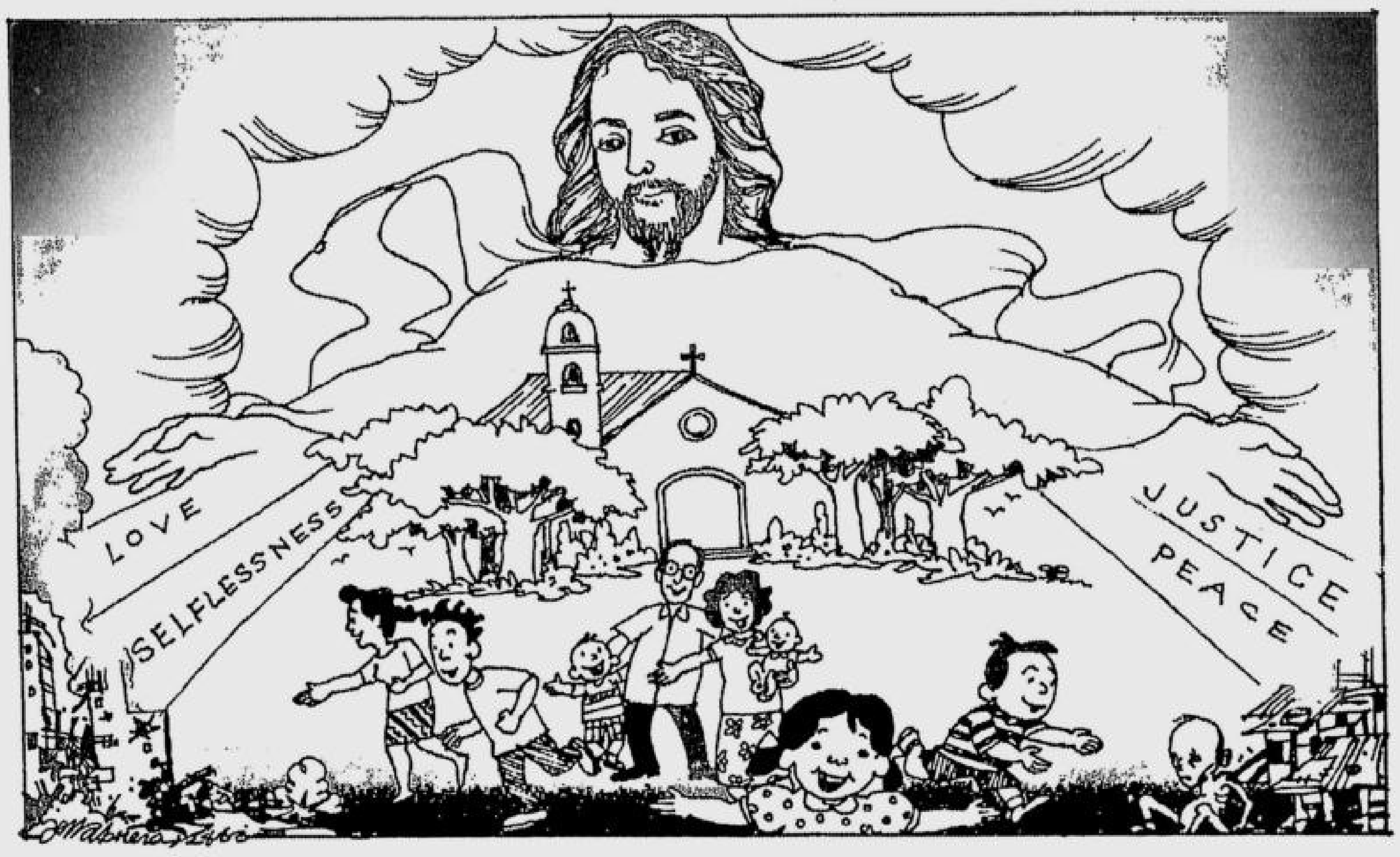
From this perspective, Kintanar is just the recent victim of the continuing purges inside the movement, even as it has increasingly been marginalized by the collapse of former communist regimes in other parts of the world and the transformation of China and Vietnam into capitalist havens.

When Kintanar broke away from the Sison faction in 1991 because of conflict over the correct strategy in pursuing the revolution, he held that fomenting urban insurrection was the correct approach to winning power. His challenge to Sison's orthodoxy led to his sacking as chief of the NPA, which had reached its peak military strength with an army of 25,000 men at the time. After his sacking, Kintanar pursued his own line, seeking accommodation with the government and treading deeper into the parliamentary path. At the time of his death, he was actively cooperating with the government in the search for a political settlement through negotiations and served as a consultant for the immigration bureau. He had also helped traditional politicians in their campaigns, including Speaker Jose de Venecia who made an unsuccessful run for the presidency in 1998.

For all intents and purposes, Kintanar had traveled deep into the terrain of parliamentary cooperation and his distance from Sison's strategy had become unbridgeable. This serves to demonstrate how inflexible and isolated Sison has become. In terms of military capability, the NPA has dwindled to 10,000 men and the political environment is less hospitable to a protracted armed struggle.

Kintanar's assassination throws the spotlight on the fragmentation of the communist movement more than on his conflict with Sison. The movement has split into at least three factions, some of which have sustained themselves not through revolutionary dogma or passion but by exacting ransom from kidnappings and by revolutionary taxation of business establishments. Another faction has taken explicitly the parliamentary route, as exemplified by Satur Ocampo's Bayan Muna whose members won election to the House of Representatives by riding on the party list vehicle.

Ocampo and his allies have not been killed because of their heresy, leading Ocampo to warn the government not be too hasty in concluding that the Kintanar murder was in compliance with orders from the communist leadership. Still, it cannot be denied that the communist movement has been losing its former stalwarts either through murder or departure from the line of the party old guard. These developments tend to show that the party is losing ground and relevance. The elimination of heretics, like Kintanar and Lagman, clearly does not strengthen the hand of the party as it continues to struggle to capture state power.



Who should change the Constitution?

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

IT did not take a Nostradamus to predict that Speaker Jose de Venecia would vigorously oppose the plan to call a constitutional convention to study the proposed Charter changes. He would rather entrust the task to his colleagues in the House of Representatives and the Senate acting as a constituent assembly.

Article XVII of the 1987 Constitution authorizes either method. The Commonwealth Constitution was changed by direct legislative action in 1940 and by constitutional convention in 1973. All the changes in the 1973 Charter were proposed by the rubber-stamp legislature then. The 1987 Constitution was proposed not by an elective body but by a commission handpicked by President Corazon Aquino.

The title of the present article is "Amendment or Revision," obviously to distinguish between the two kinds of change. The original title of the corresponding articles in the 1935 and 1973 Constitutions, was the generic "Amendments" covering both the amendment and the revision. The evident purpose of the new title is to indicate—or at least suggest—the method of proposal to be adopted, depending on the change contemplated.

Regardless of the scope of the planned alteration, the choice of the method of proposal rests entirely with Congress. In its discretion, it may itself discharge the task or call a constitutional convention for the purpose. To take an extreme example, Congress may call a constitutional convention merely to reduce the retirement age of judges or directly undertake a revision proposing a major revamp of the government.

Since what is currently being proposed is the adoption of the parliamentary system in lieu of the presidential, the seriousness and scope of the work require that it be done by a constitutional convention. There are several essential differences between Congress and the constitutional convention that will make the latter a better instrument to study the proposal.

For one thing, the constitutional convention is expected to be better prepared than Congress for the intended work. Legislators are generally chosen on the strength of their political savvy and tactics compared to the delegates who will (or should) be elected for their academic credentials. The members of Congress may be skilled in lawmaking (with many disgraceful exceptions) but that does not necessarily make them experts too in rewriting the Constitution.

Moreover, the legislators being politicians, they are more likely to place their own interests above those of the nation. Even now, in fact, they are talking of extending their terms beyond the 2004 elections and thus reelecting themselves without any election. Delegates are expected to reject such schemes of self-aggrandizement that will defeat the hopes of the citizenry for a better future under a revised Constitution.

The constitutional convention will certainly have more time to devote to its work than Congress dividing its attention between its regular duties and the rewriting of the Charter. At present, the legislators have yet to approve the general appropriations bill and other vital measures that have been pending these many weeks. Making Congress a constituent assembly will only result in its producing half-baked legislation and a half-baked revision.

Interestingly, a representative suggested that Congress could divide the week between three days for their legislative work and two days for the revision, thereby placing more importance on the enactment of statutes than the reexamination of the Constitution. The alteration of the fundamental law is a sovereign function that certainly requires more attention than ordinary lawmaking.

As for the expense of electing and maintaining a constitutional convention, more public funds have been splurged on the annual congressional junkets enjoyed by the legislators and their spouses. A constitutional convention is certainly more deserving of financial support than the yearly excursions of the members of Congress to the tourist attractions abroad.

The quality of the current Congress has hardened public resistance to entrusting it with the vital task of rewriting the Constitution. One recalls with dismay how a majority in the Lower House threatened to block the arrest of the fugitive Mark Jimenez as ordered by the Supreme Court itself. And how about the old boys club in the Senate that is keeping the report of the Lacson investigation under wraps and thus effectively whitewashing it?

There was the exposé made by a congressman that the same Mark Jimenez distributed P50,000 checks among his colleagues as Christmas gifts in 2001. The generous gesture suggests another argument in favor of the parliamentary system as more economical in the choice of the Prime Minister by his colleagues than electing a President nationwide. One doesn't have to court the electorate—bribing the Parliament is better.

Are these the people who would revise our Constitution? Heaven forbid!

Look who is crying foul!

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

THE TEXT messages and phoned-in comments on the radio and the results of a TV nationwide poll cannot be regarded as necessarily representative of what the Filipino people think about the matter, because the respondents are self-selected. But it is still very heartening that the great majority of those texters and callers (75 percent for the TV "Debate" and 95 percent for the radio) were not in sympathy with the "plight" of professionals, artists and athletes vis-à-vis the 10 percent value-added tax (VAT) that is now to be collected on the services they render. This tends to support my oft-repeated contention that the informed Filipino can be trusted to make the right decisions.

I would be the first one to oppose the imposition of additional or new taxes—until the government shows me that it is doing everything in its power to collect the current taxes and improve tax administration. But one has to be either clueless or a liar, if one says at this point that the 10-percent VAT is new.

Let's have a short history of the VAT from tax expert Nene Guevara, the best finance secretary the country never had, who has been involved in every major tax legislation effort since 1986:

"The original VAT law was passed in 1988, and it was broadened to include services in 1994 (Expanded VAT or EVAT law). The expansion was made for equity reasons, to make the VAT productive, and to improve administration by establishing a paper trail.

"At that time, however, the VAT on professionals, actors, actresses and professional athletes was deferred for two years in accommodation of the strong lobby from the sectors concerned. A group of actors (I remember Kris Aquino, Edu Manzano, Rudy Fernandez) went to the Senate during the deliberations. They were, in fact, permitted to enter the session hall to talk to the senators. By that time, we already had movie stars in the Senate (Sotto, Revilla).

"There then followed a series of postponements. In 1996, RA 8241 deferred the VAT on professionals and entertainers to 1998. In 1997, the CTRP Law (RA 8241) again postponed it to Jan. 1, 2000. RA 8761 stretched this to 2001. The last extension, to January of this year, was made by RA 2003."

Thus, while everybody else in the service sector, like traders, mechanics, beauty parlors, *sari-sari* stores, *carinderias*, had to pay VAT starting in 1994, the professionals and entertainers—lawyers, accountants, architects, doctors; movie, TV and broadcast talents and entertainers both in front and behind the scenes; professional athletes and brokers of all kinds—enjoyed what was essentially an eight-year tax holiday.

That's two years longer than the six-year tax holiday given to "pioneer" investments by the Board of Investments, which, by the way, has been criticized for being too generous with fiscal incentives. Yet in spite of their longer reprieve, the professionals and entertainers are crying unfair because party-pooper Lito Camacho refuses to extend their holiday.

They're also crying poor. The big-name entertainers, they say, comprise a tiny minority. The rest are small-time talents, struggling to make a living.

Who isn't? Moreover, they forget that if the aggregate receipts of a person are not more than P100,000 a year, he is exempt from VAT. Up to P550,000 a year, he only is subject to a 3 percent tax.

Yet another argument against the VAT is forwarded: The poor are going to get hurt. The professionals and entertainers will pass on the tax to them in the form of higher professional fees, or so the Philippine Medical Association has threatened. But this only goes to show how little they know about the VAT.

First, rural doctors are exempt. Medical services in government hospitals (doctors there are salaried) are also exempt. And of course, so are those whose gross receipts are P550,000 or less. So the "*masa*" won't get hurt that much, if at all.

Second, while professionals and entertainers must pay a 10 percent tax on their gross receipts, they are also allowed to subtract from that their "input VATs" that they pay on such items as rentals (office space, phones), their equipment and supply purchases or leases. Which means, in effect, that they will be paying less than 10 percent (Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno estimates net VAT payments to range from 2 to 5 percent). Anybody who passes on the full 10 percent is in effect making money on the deal.

But if it results in only a 2 to 5 percent tax burden, why bother? Because under the system, the incentive to ask for receipts increases, as that is the only way to reduce the burden. Which leaves a paper trail. Which allows the government to widen the tax net (base)—as well as cross-check taxpayer declarations.

That's why the government wants to pursue the VAT system. To date, 123 countries have adopted it, some so successfully that they have been able to reduce their income tax rates or remove them completely.

The foregoing notwithstanding, there is another compelling reason for the government to collect the VAT from professionals and entertainers. The fact is that the latter bear a disproportionately small—and decreasing—share of the (income) taxes collected. Consider: the average effective tax rate (taxes paid divided by gross income) on business income is 1.3 percent. On mixed (business plus compensation) income, it is 5.7 percent. But on strictly wage and salary income, it is 26.7 percent. Moreover, tax revenues from professionals and entertainers constituted a mere 0.49 percent of GDP in 1995. Last year (2002) this proportion declined to just 0.26 percent.

It is high time the professionals and entertainers start pulling their own weight around here.

Senate con-con resolution unrealistic

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE RECENT SWS survey on the family, whose results were released in time for the 4th World Meeting of Families, warms the heart, for it indisputably show the Filipinos' faith in the family as the bulwark of strength and stability in our society. The survey showed that 86 percent of Filipinos are satisfied with family life, and a whopping 93 percent believe children are the source of family joy. They agree that "watching children grow up is life's greatest joy" and only 2 percent disagree. From the survey, what shines through is that no matter how much critics have tried to put down the traditional Filipino family system, the institution of marriage and the right to life, the majority of our people continue to believe in them.

* * *

These rosy findings, however, cannot hide the fact that serious problems beset Filipino families and the world meeting took cognizance of it. The most serious, as the media have pointed out, is that many children have grown up with one parent or both parents working abroad because of hard times and the parents' desire to earn more. The relationship between husbands and wives has also suffered on account of the distance between them, and our overseas welfare officers are swamped with so many cases of infidelity of spouses. A 1999 survey showed that about 7.2 million Filipinos were abroad and an average of 2,511 recruits were leaving daily. That trend continues. The absence of parents and the fact that children grew up with their grandparents or other relatives have resulted in many problems, despite the family's relative material progress. These include dropping out of school, sexual promiscuity and drug addiction.

The World Meeting's resolution to address the problem and consequences of absentee Filipino parenting is timely, but something must be done fast. For starters, we have to improve the economy so that our people don't have to work abroad.

* * *

Former Sen. Raul Roco has lost no time organizing for his presidential candidacy in 2004. The Volunteers for Roco has been launched, and just recently some people formed another group called Reform-Oriented Citizens' Organization, or ROCO for short. Reports say the portly Roco has also been undergoing physical exercises to get into proper shape for the rigorous campaign.

* * *

I was elated to hear the informal announcement, albeit premature, of the President's choice of Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Narciso Abaya as the incoming AFP chief of staff. That means that the revolving-door policy of picking who gets that exalted post will finally come to a stop since Abaya will retire on Oct. 29, 2004. My husband and I know him since the two of them are both West Point alumni. Abaya will be the second West Pointer after FVR to be elevated to chief of staff. He holds one of the best records among Filipino alumni of West Point. It is a pity that controversy attended the informal announcement of his selection, but that doesn't detract from his merit. He is a good choice.

* * *

I read the Senate resolution signed by 14 senators, which seeks to call a constitutional convention in 2004 to amend the Constitution. It is obviously their reaction to the accusations made by some quarters that the House resolution sponsored by Rep. Eduardo Nachura's committee seeking to convene a constituent assembly, reeks of politics. The senators have swung to the other extreme and want to shut out the politicians by making sitting members of Congress ineligible to run for the constitutional convention. That sounds really palatable to the people. But the problem is that the Senate resolution doesn't stop at the politicians. It also excludes candidates put up by any political party, group or committee, as well as by "civic, religious, professional or other organization or organized group of whatever nature." All these groups cannot give "aid or support, directly or indirectly, material or otherwise," favorable to or against the candidates.

* * *

Are the senators serious? Since no organized group can support any candidate, this means that the Integrated Bar or the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industries cannot sponsor a candidate to have a voice in the convention. If the candidates cannot receive financial support from any group, who can afford to run in this election which is bound to be expensive? What will happen is that the convention will be filled entirely by elitists with their own vested interests.

* * *

I have my misgivings, too, about excluding politicians from the process of amending the Charter. There are good politicians and bad politicians, but what the senators are doing is condemning them wholesale (including themselves!), saying we cannot trust them all. I submit that we can learn a lot from serious legislators who know how the law operates and from efficient and honest bureaucrats about how the government works and what it needs to run well. We need their collective wisdom, but the senators prefer delegates who have to learn from scratch. It seems that the Senate is not founded on reality.

* * *

I agree entirely with former UP president Jose Abueva that relying on a referendum to decide whether to amend the Charter or not is unrealistic and even unfair. Abueva has argued before the House members that perhaps three-fourths of the population have not even read the Constitution, so how can they make an intelligent decision? This is an issue where the intelligentsia has always led the way, but every effort has to be made by House members, governors and mayors across the nation, who support Charter change, to conduct information campaigns among the broad masses.

An uncertain living

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"EXCUSE me. Taxes are also automatically deducted from talent fees, not just from compensation income. And I don't get a Christmas bonus or a profit share," scriptwriter Pete Lacaba texted me Thursday morning, when my column on the "real" milking cows of government came out.

So we're all milking cows, Pete. Some just give milk more readily (or haplessly) than others. Joke.

But in pointing out the flaws in the arguments raised by entertainers and other professionals to be affected by the 10 percent VAT, it wasn't my intention either to, as film and TV director Joey Reyes said in Thursday's "Debate," pit professionals and salaried workers against each other in a public cockfight. It's just that even as we all groan and moan about the tax burdens we all bear, ordinary employees, including minimum wage workers, don't enjoy the perks of celebrities that call media time and attention to their protests, and that readily win them audiences with legislators and Cabinet officials. As some entertainers and professionals concede, the VAT requirement is really a "pass-on" tax, and the added burden will be borne, down the road, not by doctors, lawyers, accountants, producers or performers, but by consumers. And that's all of us.

But in the meantime, my understanding is that paying VAT on services will force previously exempt professionals to keep books and issue receipts, which will in turn enable the BIR to keep better track of their earnings.

Could this be the real reason for the massive rally and the media campaign against the oft-postponed VAT? Is it the fear of closer government monitoring of their income, rather than consumer welfare, that motivates them?

* * *

ONE of the reasons advanced by entertainers, in particular, is that the industry is already on the ropes, and the VAT will not only knock them out, but bury them. Or as the ever-articulate Joey put it so succinctly, it will be "the last nail on the coffin of the industry."

I've always thought the movie industry is one of the most heavily taxed in this country, what with amusement tax and flood tax eating up fully 55 percent of the gross receipts. Some months back, the President signed the film development law that allows rather generous tax breaks to outstanding films to be rated by an independent multi-sectoral body. This is small comfort, though, to producers not inclined to churning out "award winning" movies, preferring to rely on commercial success to recover their investments. But even this route to profit is imperiled by rampant piracy, believed to have cut ticket receipts by as much as 50 percent.

I for one would agree to government subsidies to the industry, in much the same way that governments of neighboring countries, like China and Australia, have supported the development of their own film industries resulting in international acclaim for their films, filmmakers and performers. Such subsidies should be viewed as investments rather than doles, because international recognition for Philippine cinema could mean international recognition for our country and our culture. This recognition, in turn, could bring in revenues by way of the entry of foreign filmmakers, the casting of Filipino talent and the start-up of peripheral industries.

* * *

FRIENDS in the industry have also gone out of their way to point out that the impression that everyone involved in the world of entertainment lies on a bed of money is an illusion. For every Sharon Cuneta or Aga Muhlach whose faces can sell thousands of magazines, launch a blockbuster movie or sell everything from hamburger to feminine wash, there are struggling performers, directors, scriptwriters, production people who eke out an uncertain living at best.

A fortnight or so ago, I guested on what turned out to be the "last live taping" of the show "Morning Girls" with hosts Pops Fernandez, Zsa-Zsa Padilla and Carmina Villaroel. When I asked the three why they were bowing out, they just shrugged and replied that their contracts had expired. At show's end, the entire production crew rushed for souvenir photos with the three "Girls," and I thought, if this could happen to three of the biggest names in local TV, how much more vulnerable and insecure were "smaller" talents whose stints may not even last a season.

* * *

YOU can't judge a performer's income based on the contract price alone, contends Angeli Pangilinan-Valenciano, a talent manager whose "stable" of talents include her husband Gary Valenciano and MTV VJ Donita Rose.

For starters, a performer shells out as much as 30 percent of a contract price to the manager, who in the first place invested much time, money and effort to build up a performer before he or she could even be presented to a producer. Then there's a small barangay of people whose services are necessary to maintain a career or burnish an image: publicists, accountants, drivers and *alalays*, makeup artists, couturiers, image consultants. "And even if you do end up making just one movie, or one concert, in a year, you still have to keep paying most of these people," says Angeli.

Even when your career has hit the skids, when projects are scarce and even mother roles or best friend supporting roles are hard to come by, the performer has an image to maintain and protect. "Even a *laos* performer can't take the jeep or MRT, not if he or she has some pride left," remarks Angeli. Which reminds me of an actor's comment that his biggest nightmare was ending up the subject of a "Where is he now?" TV feature whose biggest moral is how far he has fallen.

Rare and curious flora

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

LET me entertain you, as the song goes, but that is of course if historical trivia is your idea of entertainment. Here's Scheidnagel still, the lieutenant colonel who, among other information, also gathered data about more or less "curious" plants whose existence wasn't well known even in the Philippines then.

Cha: the Chinese name for tea, the leaf and the plant. Now it is not that we don't know what *cha* is, but rather that the shrub grew wild in Aringay, La Union, once upon a time. Scheidnagel claimed he started a botanical garden in La Trinidad where he transplanted examples of these and tended them carefully with satisfactory result. The particular specie was green and samples were sent to the Sociedad de Amigos del Pais. (Do we grow tea? Don't be silly; it's easier to import.)

Tin-Sin: Chinese rattan imported into the Philippines to serve as flint in oil lamps from China; used widely in the towns. The fiber is also utilized to make light-weight hats and other much appreciated objects.

Scheidnagel said he discovered its existence in the boundaries of Benguet province and informed his superiors. He presumed that it grew in abundance in all humid but elevated areas of Luzon. (Since neither you nor I ever heard of it, chances are his superiors paid him no heed, a tradition that has been handed down with great success between boss and his underlings among us, especially in government.)

Bugayong: a small tree that produced a fruit inside, of which is found yellowish down or nap used as excellent tinder or fuel. It was found in the mountains separating Benguet from Nueva Vizcaya and Lepanto.

Lusung: a rather big tree whose leaves were eaten by the golden worm (*gusano de oro*), itself a rare specie found in the forests of Taquian in Benguet. The chrysalis of this worm formed a golden and hard filament resembling gold thread and was notable because neither the humidity nor time diminished its brilliance or beautiful color. The worm itself was black, approximately the same size as the silk worm, and the butterfly was big, white and yellow. Scheidnagel looked for it in other areas or other parts of the district but found that it existed solely in abundance in the forests of Taquian (in all probability neither the forest nor the tree nor the worm exists today.)

Saga-saga: a perennial shrub with fruits whose very hard seeds were bluish and used as beads in jewelry by the Igorots.

Calambibit: a thorny shrub that produced a fruit with a medicinal seed of the same name, from which a bitter tonic was made to cure stomach ailments.

Porpongro: A most curios shrub that attracted the attention of foreign naturalists. It was found only in the Benguet district, on the highest mountainsides. The notable feature of this plant were the extremes of its strong fibrous leaves that displayed a stamen, supporting in a vertical position a vessel like a small *calabasa* with a lid. During the hours of sunlight the cavity remained closed, opening only at night. These were always full of dew and each contained at least a deciliter of water.

Balangut: a type of root or vine used for rope whose texture resembled rattan although it was stronger and more resilient.

Daloro: a small tree whose bark was utilized to sharpen blades for shaving.

Dauglin, Banot, Nabo, Coliao: filaments found in Batangas, Bataan, Sual and other towns of Pangasinan and used to make rope of great resistance.

Oils were distinguished by their balsamic and medicinal properties. The seeds and plants could be obtained in the provinces: *Palo-Maria, Macabujay* and *Tagumbao* (Ilocos), Sesame or *Ajon-joli* (Pampanga), *Tagulunay* (Visayas), *Tangan-tangan* (La Union), *Bubuy* and *Lumbang* (Bulacan).

There was as well a list of what he considered to be "museum pieces," the most interesting of which were antique swords dating from Magellan's time found in many of the tribunals in the coastal towns of Tayabas and actually still used by government troops. Antique cannons were also a common sight.

Sual: I knew this only as the name of a town in Pangasinan, but I have discovered that it was also the name of a type of bolo with multiple uses. It was a weapon when necessary, a spade to stir soil, to dig holes for posts of houses and also clear mountainsides. It was found all over Ilocos and in the towns of Benguet, Bontoc, Abra and Lepanto.

Petrified wood, precious and curious examples of the forests of Tarlac (what forests?), were found near the town of San Miguel de Camiling. Fossilized plants could be collected in the forests of Benguet, Lepanto, La Union and Ilocos. Among the Igorots, it was common to find antique mummified bodies of persons and animals.

Scheidnagel was not a botanist and his interest in plants was more of an avocation. He could also have been exaggerating to make his report more intriguing. However, it has not ceased to amaze me how a tropical country like the Philippines, which once had a thriving export of ilang-ilang and was well known for the cotton that grew in Ilocos, now imports practically everything except babies. I have to point out further that the importance of its forests and marine life has never been given priority, judging by the fact that despite the biodiversity, environmentalists recognize we have neither a marine park or a botanical garden. Both our Spanish and American colonizers at least had one in the center of Manila whose remnants the mayor wants to cover with cement.

A world of Eves

YOUNG BLOOD

Peeble Narita Agdamag

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

MAN has a heart, but having this blood-pumping mechanism gives no guarantee that he can feel. Man has a brain, yet having this thinking apparatus does not always mean he can reason. Man has hands, but having this performing gear provides no assurance that he can work.

Man is endowed with the necessary body parts and given the raw materials to begin with, he is left with the choice and the freedom to grow in his own time and by his own means.

With all her heart and passion, Mother Teresa loved the poor, but also with all his heart and passion, Adolf Hitler hated the Jews and almost wiped them out in Germany. With his inquisitive mind, Robert Hooke discovered the cell while others who were similarly endowed invented the atomic bomb. These are just some of the fruits—good and bad—of the heart, the brain and the hands. Same raw materials used, but different outputs produced.

With the advance of time and technology, the heart, the brain and the hands have come up with something new and created a problem. A solution is awaited and a choice has to be made. The problem is the cloning of human beings.

As a science student, it is not enough that I know how an egg divides and produces an embryo, or which particular hormone induces contraction and labor. I must be aware of the practical uses of such knowledge and how scientists are utilizing such information. We are living in a social world where each one is connected. We cannot simply be passive receptors but active participants in an ever-changing society. We cannot let events pass us by, but we must go with them, constantly aware that we are part of their forward movement just as they play a part in shaping us.

This subject of human cloning has reopened a much-debated issue which has not been resolved until now. Is it right for science to modify the way nature creates life? Do the benefits outweigh the dangers it presents? Is it ethical?

The issue revolves around the responsibility scientists have, not only for their discoveries and inventions but also for their uses and their applications in our lives.

In cloning the sheep Dolly, 277 eggs were utilized but only one survived to term. That number is for a sheep. A much bigger number has to be used for the cloning of a more complex organism: a human being.

Life is life no matter what form it takes. The large failure rate in Dolly's creation is inexcusable. The non-surviving 276 eggs were still 276 lives lost one way or another. There can be no justification for sacrificing many potential lives for the sake of creating one.

The much larger rate of failure in the creation of baby Eve is unforgivable because what were sacrificed were not animal lives but sentient human beings.

Respect for life and the dignity of the human person are the heart of the issue. Do we have the right to decide how life is to be used? Do we have the right to choose which ones will die and which will live?

No, we have no right to tinker with the natural flow of life. We were made stewards of life and not its masters.

Some people say that to stop human cloning violates our freedom to grow and develop, slows down the growth of the human mind and stunts development of our capabilities to their fullest.

They are wrong. We must make use of our faculties and talents, but the exercise of this right and freedom has its limits. Freedom ends where the rights of others start.

One must not stand in the way of science's advance for it is one of the foundations of civilization. But we must not play with life. Science is meant to help us understand the creations of God and not to create like we were God.

Cloning presents many possibilities: A heart that seeks someone to love can have a child. A sharp mind can get to know more of the mysteries of life. And skillful hands can be put to work.

But cloning becomes wrong when the heart seeks that which is not natural, the mind uncovers that which is not for man to tap and the hands work on something he has no right to tinker with. Cloning gambles with life. It poses great dangers and high risks which outweigh the benefits it may produce. A human child is not merely segmented pieces joined together by flesh and cartilage but one whole bound by spirit and purpose. This is what one tinkers with through cloning.

Peeble Narita Agdamag, 18, is a Biology student at the University of Santo Tomas.

My playmate Ali

Abdul

FIFTEEN years ago I had a playmate named Ali. We used to play *baril-barilan* in the cornfield near their hut. We were carefree just like any ordinary child, but we were also different from the other boys. Aside from being naughtier, we knew how to fire an M-16 armalite rifle.

We were both 7 years old when his father taught us how to use the rifle. Eight years later, Ali was already using an AK-47.

One time I asked Ali why his family chose to live a different life. I meant, not like most other families where children go to school and the parents work to earn a living.

He told me why. His great grandfather was killed during the brutal Bud Bagsak massacre where more than 2,000 people died, including women and children. The American troops who perpetrated the massacre, under the command of General Pershing, never paid for their crime. His uncle was one of the victims of the Jabidah massacre during the Marcos regime. A prominent politician, with help from the military, grabbed their land during martial law. His mother was raped and killed also during the martial law years. Their relatives had similar stories to tell.

"Do you think, after all those things, we could just go on like nothing ever happened?" he asked.

That question sank deep into my mind. And I understood what he meant because I experienced almost the same fate. I never saw my parents. They were also murdered during the bloody era of martial law.

During the government siege on Camp Abubakar, Ali's father was killed. He had 50 gunshot wounds in his body.

In his last letter to me, Ali said soldiers kept firing even as his father lay wounded and defenseless. I've never heard from him since.

Today, we are both 22. We are no longer playmates. We no longer play *baril-barilan*. But we never forgot what his father taught us. We still fire M-16 rifles.

Abdul, 22, is a freelance writer.

Irresponsible statement on Islamic culture

YOUR article, "When a Muslim draws, he shoots," last Jan. 23 quoted Prof. Taha Basman as saying, "One should never dare a Muslim to draw his gun because he would not hesitate to shoot. This is a part of Islamic culture."

This statement gives the impression that Muslims are war freaks and a bloodthirsty people. Worse, the claim that such viciousness is part of Islamic culture and tradition has utterly no basis in Islamic principles and tenets apart from being misguided and irresponsible.

As Muslims, we are taught the virtue of patience and tolerance. No less than the Prophet Mohammed (SAW) espoused patience in the face of our adversaries. We are not taught to commit cold-blooded murder over a minor traffic incident. Instead, Islam teaches utmost tolerance and patience in our dealings with our fellowmen, Muslims or non-Muslims alike.

I sympathize with the family of Jose Ramon "Jay" Llamas over his senseless death. They deserve nothing less than swift justice and the killer should be made to account for his acts.

I appeal to my fellow Muslims not to make any irresponsible comment and perpetuate false stereotypes of Islamic culture as this will only aggravate misunderstandings between Muslims and Christians. Let us promote a more positive image of Muslims.

Please, let us not add to the problems already existing in our community. Instead, let us be part of the solution.

—MAISARA C. DANDAMUN-LATIPH,
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Makati City

DOF sees higher take with auto tax reform

THIS refers to the article of Gil Cabacungan Jr. last Jan. 20, titled "Solons buck 'pro-rich' auto tax reform package." We would like to make the following clarifications:

The Department of Finance (DOF), in its efforts to correct distortions in the present automobile excise taxation that have been adversely affecting investment decisions and government revenues, has initiated a major tax reform measure. The reform is meant to overhaul the entire auto excise tax system to put in place a fairer and more efficient auto excise tax regime. It also seeks to establish a simple auto excise tax administration system which will do away with the complicated 10-seater rule.

With this in mind, the DOF submitted a draft bill to the ways and means committee of Congress. The proposal was sponsored in its entirety by Rep. Julio A. Ledesma and filed as House Bill No. 5466. Under the proposal, the DOF set the top marginal rate at 100 percent to be applied to automobiles priced over P2 million.

However, during the first committee hearing, representatives of the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. (Campi) asked the top marginal rate be reduced to 50 percent. They justified the reduction by saying that a more realistic rate will prevent the creation of a "gray market" for high-priced automobiles and encourage the proper declaration of taxes for these automobiles. In the ultimate analysis, it will result in more revenues for the government. To the best of our knowledge, there was no objection to this proposal.

The DOF, in a position paper dated Jan. 8, 2003 submitted to the committee, no longer objected to the proposed lowering of the top marginal rate to 50 percent, basically for the reason that the impact on revenues of the proposal is very minimal. Note that automobiles belonging to the topmost bracket but currently exempt owing to the 10-seater rule, will be subject to the excise tax under the proposed bill.

To maintain the social bias for AUVs, the DOF proposed a very low rate of 3 percent or at most 15 percent, depending on the price. A number of AUVs have also ceased to be the "car of the masses" but have been transformed into fully accessorized cars catering to the middle or even high-end market.

While the DOF has estimated an incremental revenue of P232 million from this proposed measure, this is a very conservative estimate because it assumes static sales and prices, while the industry projects increased sales under the proposed excise tax reform bill. At present, the government collects more than P2 billion annually from excise tax on automobiles.

—CORNELIO C. GISON,
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Administration has no population control policy

IN PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's speech at the 40th founding anniversary of the University of Assumption, she finally talked about the growing population and the need to address the problem.

This is a subject that has been set aside by the administration. Since her ascent to power, President Macapagal has not really discussed the issue, nor has she shown any interest in slowing down the growth of the population. It is time that her administration responded to this problem for overpopulation negatively affects our economy, the delivery of basic services and the environment, and is a cause of poverty and inequality.

We need to have a well thought-out policy that addresses this massive hindrance to development.

—LARISSA J.C. VILA,
Doña Faustina Village,
Tandang Sora, Quezon City

Change begins with better leaders

THERE'S a lot of hullabaloo going on about the Constitution. And because some people in powerful positions talk about it, there seems to be a real urgency in bringing about Charter change.

There are basic questions that we must answer. Can't this nation move forward without amending the Constitution? We know it can, only filthy politics is bringing this country down. Has not President Macapagal-Arroyo called for a stop to politicking so that the nation can proceed with its economic agenda? Is the Constitution to be blamed for the country's ills?

Some members of Congress are claiming that the "people" are clamoring for Charter change. There seems to be no basis for saying that. The surveys indicating that most Filipinos do not want Charter amendments may not be entirely credible either. But if we want to know how the people feel, let us find this out through a referendum.

If we amend the Constitution, are we assured of better governance? The proposed parliamentary form of government, for instance, have we not tried it under Marcos only to see the legislature converted into a rubber stamp of Malacañang? Why should we impose such a form of government on a people who are unfamiliar with its nuances?

Some people are advocating a federal form so that the Christian-Muslim conflict in Mindanao could be resolved and the regions would enjoy greater autonomy. Who understands federalism? Our people have not even fully understood the presidential system. Most Filipinos have not even read our Constitution. Even our lawyers have different interpretations of its provisions.

Are the Filipinos ready to be governed by a parliament simply because most countries in Asia have adopted it? Is it the form of government that makes a country?

Did we not have an economically progressive nation under the presidential system from 1946 until the Marcos years when we got entangled in a web of corruption and quack governance? Until we elected movie stars to the Senate and the presidency? Until we placed the mediocre in positions of power?

Is it really the form of government that we need to change or the people running the government today?

It is time our people woke up to the reality that they should give a serious look to the quality of people they elect. This is more urgent than changing the system. What if the system fails again? Should we keep on changing it? Is the government corrupt because of the system or because of the people in the government?

For as long as there is no effective cure to the culture of corruption that pervades our society and our mind-set as a people, no political or economic system will succeed in our country.

What our people need to know is how to elect the kind of officials who will lead the nation to greatness.

—RAMON M. GUTIERREZ,
Block 79, Lot 35, Lagro,
Novaliches, Quezon City

Media's help in finding justice

PLEASE accept my heartfelt thanks for the help that you and your colleagues have given me in my quest for justice for my father, Generoso B. Miranda III, who was killed in a traffic altercation in 1984 (after my father unintentionally cut the path of a military officer as he tried to avoid firecrackers being thrown in his car's path). Many people have called to tell me they strongly believe that the assistance you gave in airing my plea to Capt. Eladio C. Tangan to surrender to the authorities helped convince him to give up to the police.

It is my hope that our country will see the end to road rage killings which are so senseless and yet affect the family of the victims so much. The surrender of Tangan and his service of the sentence imposed by the Supreme Court even after 18 long years from the time the crime was committed will help get the message across that ultimately, crime does not pay.

I thank God that the Supreme Court rectified the light penalty imposed by the regional trial court. It only shows the importance the Supreme Court gives to life and the truth. I hope that this will make the other families of victims of crimes trust in our judicial system and not take the law into their own hands, knowing that the Supreme Court is there to administer justice in the end.

In grateful appreciation of all of these, I have decided, with my mother's permission, to donate all of the monetary awards given us by the Supreme Court for my father's death to Save our Souls (S.O.S) Children's Village. The S.O.S. is a safe haven for many orphans and abandoned children who have never felt the love of a father like myself.

—MIA S. MIRANDA,
844 Nicanor Reyes St.,
Sampaloc, Manila

Constituent assembly is dead

COMMENTARY

Joel Rocamora

THE PLAN of the House of Representatives to convene a constituent assembly is all but dead. It was effectively buried by the Senate's opposition. President Macapagal-Arroyo's public announcement of her preference for a constitutional convention was the final nail on the coffin. With the Senate expected to approve Senate President Franklin Drilon's proposal to hold elections for convention delegates at the same time as the national elections in the 2004 elections, the only remaining step for convening a convention is for the House to recast its pro-constitutional reform stance and vote for a convention.

These momentous developments all happened in the week beginning Saturday, Jan. 11 and culminating on Jan. 17. By the weekend of Jan. 11, it was already clear that Sen. Edgardo Angara's attempt to seize the Senate leadership from Drilon had failed. This was the last chance for getting Senate approval for a constituent assembly. Because Angara was the main proponent of an assembly in the Senate, his assumption of the Senate presidency would have put him in good position to have it passed by the Senate. His failed coup angered Drilon, driving him to push for a convention.

Saturday, Jan. 11 also saw the founding assembly of the December 30 Movement, a gathering of civil society and business leaders in support of President Macapagal's program. While the President's Dec. 30 announcement stopped her declining support in civil society, many of the same leaders signed a statement urging her to reject an assembly and support a convention. It was also reported at the assembly that Cory Aquino already supported this stance.

On Monday, Jan. 13, the House leadership postponed its plan for the House to approve the committee on constitutional reforms' proposal for an assembly. This was replaced by an all-parties caucus on Jan. 15. While an overwhelming majority of those present supported the proposal, postponing a formal decision made it less difficult for the House to backtrack on its plans. In addition to the seven who opposed an assembly at the caucus, congressmen belonging to the minority announced their withdrawal of sponsorship of the assembly proposal.

At a meeting with civil society leaders on Thursday, Jan. 16, Drilon expressed his determination to push for Senate approval of his proposal for a convention in 2004. The civil society leaders expressed their full support and agreed to campaign to win public approval. They also revealed that in addition to Cory Aquino, Jaime Cardinal Sin had also expressed support for the convention plan. Drilon and the civil society leaders agreed to step up plans to bring President Macapagal around to their view.

They were all surprised the following day when the President told a Japanese media team that she indeed supported the convention formula. Showing the same capacity for political timing and drama as in her Dec. 30 announcement, she dispelled rumors that she secretly supported the House plan to convene an assembly and defer the elections. These doubts were threatening to dissipate the political capital she had gained with her Rizal Day announcement. By announcing support for a convention, the President showed that she understands the importance of amending the 1987 Constitution, and its place in the escalating political reform process.

Cardinal Sin's and Cory Aquino's proposal for a referendum in May 2004 to decide whether to have constitutional reform at all takes us back to the beginning of the process. The political public—parties, politicians, civil society and business groups—all see the need to reform our political system through amendments to the Constitution. What needs to be settled now is the mode of amendment. A referendum will cost more money because if Charter change wins, delegates to a convention will then have to be elected after the May 2004 referendum. Worse, it will revive the constituent assembly advocacy which they oppose.

Sen. Joker Arroyo and Bayan Muna oppose constitutional reform because, they say, too many personal political interests are brought into the debate. The point precisely is that on this issue, at this time, the political interests of key players coincide with their perception of the need for political reform. Bayan Muna is interested in "smashing the state," not political reform. What about Arroyo?

And what about Speaker Jose de Venecia? Where does his personal political interest coincide with his leading role in constitutional reform?

The ball, as they say, is now back in the House's side of the court. Their attempt to "shoot the moon" has failed. But they have ample political capital built up from their work in pushing the idea of constitutional reform to start with. Assembly proponents are already losing support even in the House, starting with minority members and reportedly the Liberal Party. The key will be what Lakas decides at its caucus to be president by the President on Monday.

Joel Rocamora is the executive director of the Institute for Popular Democracy (IPD).

The **National Youth Commission (NYC)** invites all youth groups, organizations, clubs and societies to join the **Search for the Ten Accomplished Youth Organizations (TAYO)**.

Entries will be judged on the basis of a recent project or program, implemented between January 2002 to January 2003.

The eight categories for selection are:

- information technology,
- capability building & education,
- culture & the arts,
- communication & media,
- community development,
- public health,
- environmental protection & conservation,
- business, livelihood & entrepreneurship

Winning organizations will receive P50,000 each and plaques of commendation to be given in an awards ceremony this April in Malacanang.

Deadline for application is February 28, 2003.

Interested to know more? Then get in touch with the TAYO Secretariat through (02) 781-2323, 781-2372, 781-1152, 749-9401 locals 119 and 121 or at e-mail address ***nyc@youth.net.ph***. You may also drop by the NYC office at the 4th Floor of Bookman Bldg., 373 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.
Or visit ***www.youth.net.ph.***

Ano pa'ng hinihintay n'yo? Join na TAYO!

MIRANT

Foundation for Governance and Convergence • National Movement of Young Legislators • Center for Local Governance, Research and Development

AMA Computer University tops again nationwide SWS Survey

In the latest poll conducted by Social Weather Station, the country's most respected survey group, AMA Computer University (AMACU) ranked number one as "The Most Recommended Computer School" in the Philippines. AMA Computer University (AMACU) bested its closest competitor in the category by a significant 31%. AMA also far outranked some of the country's leading universities including University of the Philippines, Ateneo, La Salle, UST, Informatics and Mapua. Among those who ranked AMA as the number one computer school, the top four reasons they cited for recommending AMA were the following: first, it was recognized as the most popular school apart from being the first IT University in Asia. Second, it was known for it high standard of teachers and its advanced, high quality curriculum. Third, it was recognized as having the most modern, complete facilities and advanced technology. Last but not least, its successful graduates were perceived to have a much easier time finding jobs.

Other reasons cited were: affordable tuition fees for high quality education, global affiliation with IT industry giants like Microsoft, many accessible branches nationwide, and computer specialization and focus as compared to the more established schools and universities.

MOST RECOMMENDED COMPUTER SCHOOLS:RANK 1
Base: Total with rank 1 choices

		SOCIO-ECONOMIC CLASS		
	RP	ABC	D	E
AMACU	47%	56%	46%	48%
STI	16	12	18	14
La Salle	3	8	3	0.4
Vargas	2	0	2	2
UP	1	4	1	0
Miriam College	1	2	1	2
Cagayan State College	1	0	1	2
Informatics	1	0	1	0.5

Socio-demographic profile of respondents

The respondent profile which is deemed as representative of the Philippine population is as follows: Almost half urban and half rural. More specifically, 44.5% urban and 55.5 % rural. Most of the respondents came from Balance Luzon and NCR with a combined total of 57.1%. 20% came from Visayas while 22.9% came from Mindanao. The gender was equally divided between male and female at exactly 50% each. In terms of age, most of the respondents were 45 years old and above at 39.7%. The second largest group were the 35-44 age range at 24.4%, 25-34 year olds comprised 22.6% while the 18-24 group made up only 13.3 %.

In terms of economic class, most of the respondents came from the D socio-economic bracket at 67.6%. The E bracket comprised 23.6 % while ABC respondents came in at 8.8%.

Highlights of the survey

Based on other highlights of the survey one can conclude that there has been a dramatic increase in the number of students who would like to enroll in computer schools in NCR, especially among the ABC socio-economic class. This is deemed to be a good sign for the entire Information Technology (IT) industry.

Qualities of a good computer school

When asked to mention the qualities of a good computer school, the top three qualities were: advanced/good quality/ high standard teaching/ teachers, 41%; advanced technology/ modern/ complete facilities/ globally competitive, 23%; and easy to find a job/ successful graduates, 11%. Back in March 2000, the top three qualities were advanced/ good quality/ high standard teaching/ teachers, 32%; advanced technology/ modern/ complete facilities/ globally competitive, 32%; and affordable/ cheap, 7%.

Reasons for recommending AMACU

Among the 47% who recommended AMA as number one, the top 3 reasons for doing so were: well known/ the best/ the first/ more popular than others, 36% advanced/ good quality/ high standard teaching/ teachers, 30%; and advanced technology/ modern/ complete facilities, 22%.

The AMA Computer University Advantage

There are nine major reasons why AMACU has taken the lead over other schools and universities when it comes to IT-based learning.

1. Adherence to international university level standards, the highest academic distinction any institution can earn globally.

2. Dual Diploma Program which gives enrollees the chance to earn two diplomas upon graduation. One from the University, and another from NCC-UK for international employment. Also, all IT industry giants have partnered with AMA for their programs.

3. AMACU's pursuit of Research, Publication, and Library Development is unparalleled in the country.

4. International Recognition. Since 1981, AMA has provided Asia and the world the backbone for its IT workforce.

5. Globally trained faculty, especially in new areas of learning like BS Mechatronics which is currently being taught by Dr. Mustafa Okyaya Kaynak, UNESCO Chair in Mechatronics and Visiting Professor at AMA Computer University. Mechatronics is deemed as the next high-earning frontier in pioneering careers.

6. As a pioneer in teaching Mechatronics in the Philippines, a P500 million laboratory facility has been prepared for the hands-on use of AMA students.

7. The power of 4: AMA, Digitel, Bayantel and PT&T joined forces to provide AMAers with the fastest, widest Internet access on-demand on its Wide Area Network (WAN). Powered by AMA's 2.0 GHz computers, the Pentium 4 standard, on AMA's renowned 1:1 student-computer ratio.

8. University-level Masters and Doctorate courses. MA in Computer Education MS Computer Science, Master in Business Administration, Master in Public Administration, MBA on-line and Ph.D. in BA Major in Management, Marketing, Finance and MIS.

9. High quality but very affordable education. With the Study Now, Pay Lite scheme which gives students the option of up to 10 years to pay. And the Subsidized Tuition Fee Program wherein students are required to pay only 50% of their total fees.

With all these advantages, no wonder AMA keeps topping nationwide surveys as The Number One Computer School in the Country.

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The latest Social Weather Station Survey shows that AMA Computer University is number 1, the most recommended computer school in the Philippines.

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

China, Russia join nations opposed to rush to Iraq war

WASHINGTON/BAGHDAD—Washington shrugged off growing vocal opposition to a possible war on Iraq on Thursday as China and Russia joined key US allies France, Germany and Canada in opposing any rush to war.

They urged the United States to allow UN inspectors more time, while France said there was "a real chance" that Iraq could be disarmed by peaceful means.

Washington dismissed the objections of its allies, with US Secretary of State Colin Powell saying Washington would find other supporters if it decided to go to war.

"I don't think we'll have to worry about going it alone," Powell said in Washington on Thursday after talks with Britain's supportive Foreign Secretary Jack Straw.

He also said it was an "open question" whether Washington would seek a further UN resolution to authorize the use of force to disarm Baghdad.

Other US officials make clear they see no need for the declaration—and given the French, Russian and Chinese veto powers on the Security Council, they are unlikely to get one.

The other two veto-wielding members, the United States and its strongest ally Britain, are now a minority on the Council.

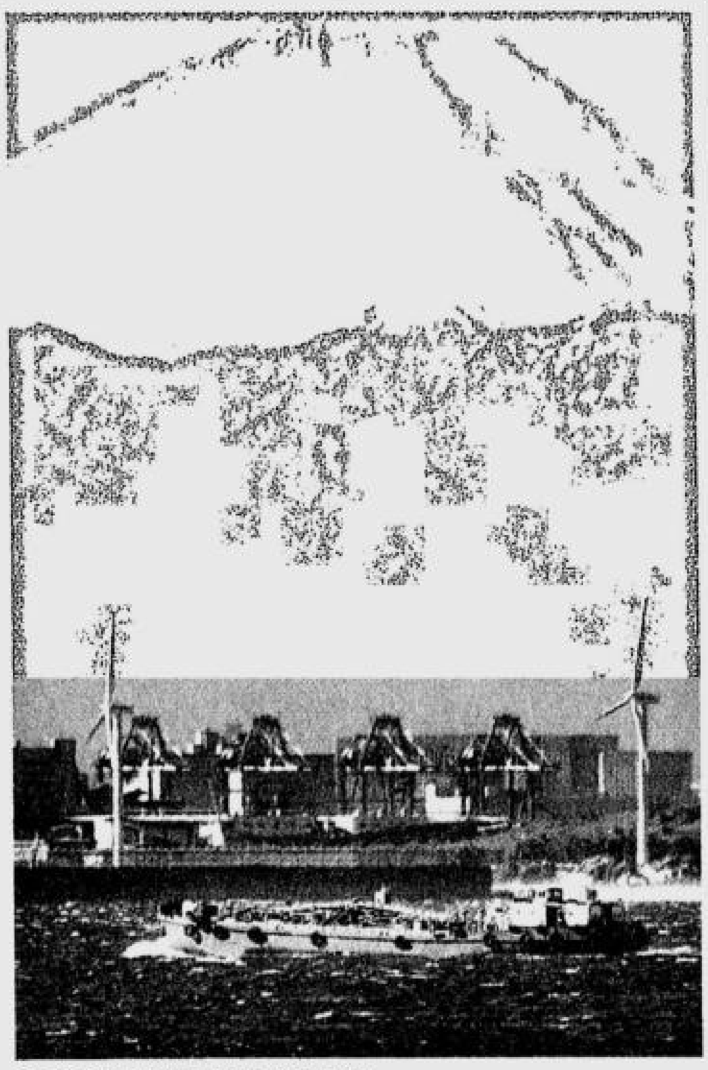
Amid talk of a rift in the transatlantic alliance, Germany and France angrily rejected US criticism that they are isolated in Europe in their effort to avoid the use of force against Baghdad.

German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer bluntly told US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to "cool down" his rhetoric and took umbrage at Rumsfeld's dismissal of France and Germany's views as that of "old Europe."

Working from the other side to halt the momentum to war, five Middle East neighbors of Iraq and Egypt, urged Baghdad to take a "more active approach" to comply with the UN weapons inspections to avoid a potentially destabilizing conflict.

And, the prospect of war overshadowed discussion of economics at the prestigious Davos, Switzerland gathering of the global economic and political elite. Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad jolted the opening session, telling the United States that "out-terrorizing the terrorists will not work."

Russian President Vladimir Putin told President George W. Bush in a telephone call the key to future action on Iraq would be found in next Monday's report by UN arms inspectors. The White House confirmed the conversation took place but gave no details. *Reuters*



SIGNATURE LANDMARK AP

Snow-covered Mount Fuji soars in the winter sky, dwarfing newly built 70-meter tall twin windmills on reclaimed land along Tokyo Bay in Tokyo Jan. 24. The windmills are part of an effort to harness wind power.

Drug shown to prevent breast cancer

LONDON—The most widely prescribed drug for treating breast cancer can also prevent the disease in healthy high-risk women, doctors said on Friday.

A review of the results of several breast cancer prevention trials showed that the drug, tamoxifen, reduced the incidence of the illness by 38 percent.

"In our analysis we combined all the available evidence from studies using tamoxifen for breast cancer prevention collectively involving over 40,000 women—and it is clear to us now that the drug can reduce the chance of high-risk women developing the disease," Professor Jack Cuzick, of the charity Cancer Research UK, said in a statement.

The drug, launched in 1973, also reduced new cancers in the opposite breast by 46 percent in women with tumors sensitive to the female hormone estrogen who had already been treated for the disease.

Tamoxifen, which neutralizes the action of estrogen which stimulates breast cancer growth, is ineffective against tumors that are not sensitive to the hormone.

But Cuzick and his colleagues, whose findings are published in The Lancet medical journal, said more research was needed to reduce the side effects of the medication before it can be prescribed as a preventative drug, because it is linked to a raised risk of blood clots and cancer of the lining of the womb.

"It may be possible to reduce the side-effects of tamoxifen by using a lower dose or adding low-dose aspirin. Carefully selecting women to exclude those already at risk of blood clotting disorders or endometrial cancer may also be a way of making the use of tamoxifen more viable," Cuzick added.

In a cancer prevention trial of 7,700 high-risk women, another drug called raloxifene reduced the incidence of breast cancer by 64 percent compared to a placebo, or dummy drug.

Raloxifene is made by Eli Lilly and Co. under the name Evista.

"The early data on raloxifene looks very promising. The trial shows that the drug can reduce the risk of breast cancer by 64 percent and cause fewer side-effects than tamoxifen," according to Cuzick. *Reuters*

US pilots apologize for bombing Canadians

BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE, La.—Two US F-16 fighter pilots who mistakenly killed four Canadian soldiers and wounded eight others in a friendly fire bombing in Afghanistan apologized to the victims and their families on Thursday in an emotional close to their "Article 32" military tribunal.

Majs. Harry Schmidt and William Umbach, their hands shaking while they read prepared statements in the hearing room, said they deeply regretted the Apr. 17 incident, which has been a wrenching case in Canada and an embarrassment to the US military, but blamed it on the fog of war.

"Since the 17th of April, not a day has passed that I have not thought of that night, in the sky, in the darkness and all that has happened since," Umbach said in a tight voice.

"If I could turn back time I would, but since I cannot, I want you to know that I am truly sorry. Major Schmidt and I were doing our best to protect ourselves in a situation where we honestly believed we were under attack," he said.

Schmidt, reading rapidly in a low monotone, said: "My heart goes out to the families of the men killed and injured in what can only be described as a tragic accident in the fog of war." *Reuters*

ILO: 180 million jobless worldwide

GENEVA—Unemployment around the world is likely to continue rising after reaching an estimated record 180 million in 2002, up more than 10 percent in two years, the International Labor Organization (ILO) warned on Friday.

Women in export sectors such as textiles and youth trying to get a first job, have been particularly hard hit by the worsening economic situation, the United Nations agency said.

Another 550 million "working poor" live on $1 or less a day, a return to heights last seen in 1998, according to the ILO report "Global Employment Trends." "The world employment situation is deteriorating dramatically," said ILO director-general Juan Somavia.

"While tens of millions of people join the ranks of the unemployed and the working poor, uncertain prospects for a global economic recovery make a reversal of this trend unlikely in 2003," he added.

The unemployment rate has rocketed in Latin America and the Caribbean, but it has also risen in other regions as well like Asia, the Middle East and sub-Saharan Africa, the report said.

Unemployment is nearly 10 percent in Latin America—dragged down by Argentina—and 18 percent in the Middle East and North Africa. In South-East Asia, where exports have suffered from the information technology slump, it is 6.5 percent.

"Unlike in the past, the informal economy in developing countries was not able to absorb all those who could not find formal employment," the report said.

The informal sector employs some 1.6 billion people worldwide, more than the 1.2 billion who work in the formal sector.

The consequences of the continuing rise in unemployment could be dramatic, according to the ILO, which says at least one billion new jobs must be created during the next decade to meet the UN goal of reducing extreme poverty by 50 percent by the year 2015.

Claire Harasty, the report's author, said, "there is a risk that an exacerbation of the alarming situation just described may lead to social instability throughout the world." *Reuters*

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Army major slain, 2 hurt in NPA ambush

By Vicente S. Labro
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—An Army major was killed while two civilians were wounded in an ambush by New People's Army (NPA) rebels about noon on Thursday in Catarman, Northern Samar.

The victim was identified as Maj. Danilo Billion, community relations office personnel of the Army's 803rd Brigade based in Barangay Dalakit, Catarman.

Reports said stray bullets hit two civilians who were near the ambush site on Magsaysay Street, Barangay Mabolo in Catarman.

They were identified as Flor Monica, a public schoolteacher in Palapag, Northern Samar, and tricycle driver Rogelio Dones, 29, of Catarman town.

Col. Cesar Tiongson, commanding officer of the 803rd Brigade, said Billion was on his motorcycle on his way to a motor shop when he noticed two men tailing him.

He sped off but two other men were already waiting for him in an eatery along the way.

They opened fire at Billion who was at that time unarmed, said Tiongson.

SPO1 Juancho Baternon, who was near the crime scene, tried to help Billion but was kept at bay by the suspects who continued firing while escaping to Barangay Macagtas.

Two persons, believed to be back-ups of the assassins, were arrested by the military. Their identities, however, were not revealed pending investigation.

The ambush occurred more than two weeks after a former rebel was shot dead by a suspected member of the NPA liquidation squad, the Sparrow Unit, in Allen, Northern Samar.

Romeo Gaon, 36, a rebel returnee, was gunned down Jan. 4 in Barangay Sabang, Zone 2, Allen.

Police said Gaon, a resident of Sabang, was on his way home when shot at by an unidentified suspect with a .45 cal. pistol in front of the barangay hall.

Family lands in jail on coconut theft raps

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—The Task Force Detainees of the Philippines in Eastern Visayas (TFD-8) has called on the government to look into the plight of a family who has been in jail for two years now for stealing about P4,000 worth of coconuts.

Fara Diva Gamalo, TFD regional staff, said Ernesto Tumampo Sr., 63; his wife Virginia, 50 and two sons Elberto, 21 and Ernesto Jr., 19 have been detained at the sub-provincial jail in Baybay, about 84 kilometers west of here, since September 2000.

The couple has been confined in a makeshift hut located inside the jail compound. Their two sons are placed together in a same cell.

Gamalo said her group has been helping the family by asking the court to hasten the resolution of the qualified theft charges filed by a relative of Virginia.

They also asked the court to temporarily release the family on humanitarian grounds, she added.

Judge Absalon Fulache of the Regional Trial Court in Baybay recommended P24,000 bail for each member of the Tumampo family. But the amount was too big for a family who relied merely on farming for their subsistence.

Their lawyer, Marcelino Malate, filed a motion to reduce the bail to P200 each, a motion that has yet to be resolved by the court.

Court records showed Primitiva Verano, a relative of Virginia, filed charges of qualified theft against the family for stealing 1,900 pieces of coconuts worth P4,180 from her property in Sitio Cantawagon, Barangay Tabgas, in Albuera town on May 21, 2000.

But Eduardo Sr. maintained that there had been an existing tenancy relationship between Verano and him since 1981 when she assigned them as caretakers of her property and allowed them to gather coconuts, which they processed into copra.

Verano would then sell the dried copra in Ormoc City, Leyte and then give the family of Tumampo one third of the sales.

According to the fact sheet distributed by the TFD-Eastern Visayas, Verano had offered the family P10,000 for them to leave her property but Eduardo Sr. turned it down, saying they could not just be ejected by Verano.

Threatened by possible eviction, the family sought the help of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR-8) legal division but the agency allegedly did not take any action on their plight.

On July 29, 2000, Demosthenes Tugonon, assistant regional state prosecutor based in Baybay, filed the information for qualified theft against the family.

Ernesto Jr. was the first to be arrested on the morning of Sept. 13, 2000 while he was threshing abaca in their farm in Sitio Cantawagon, Barangay Tabgas.

He was brought to the Albuera police station and detained.

Good harvest drives prices of strawberries down

By Desiree Caluza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—This is the perfect time for tourists and residents to savor Benguet's famous strawberries.

Farmers here posted a good harvest early this month causing a drop in the prices of fresh strawberries. From P150 a kilogram in December, prices have plunged to as low as P40 a kg this week.

Romeo Chinayo, a local strawberry farmer, said the prices of strawberries can drop to as low as P35 kg if bought from the farms in Barangay Betag here.

He said the good weather caused an overproduction and made some farmers turn to local food processing facilities to sell the fruits. These facilities produce strawberry jams, jellies and wine, among others.

"If food processing plants do not open immediately, our strawberries would rot. We do not want these products to go to waste," Chinayo said.

He said many of their harvests go to the Good Shepherd Convent in Baguio City, which processes fresh strawberries into various products that are popular to Baguio visitors.

Fresh strawberries from this town's vast plantations are marketed in Baguio City, Metro Manila and Laguna.

Chinayo recalled that the prices of strawberries hit an all-time low a few months after the July 16, 1990 earthquake.

The prices went down to as low as P10 a kg when there was an abundant supply and few tourists visited Baguio, he said.

Most of the strawberry farms in this town can be found in Barangays Betag and Longlong. Some farms are found in Tuba town.

The strawberry-planting season starts in early November when there is little rain. Fruits can be harvested starting late December until May.

"We noticed that strawberries have become beautiful and appealing during the past two weeks. I hope this would go on despite the threat of El Niño, unlike in 1998 and 1999 when we had bad harvests," said Dr. Pedro Baliang, assistant regional director of the Department of Agriculture.

Due to the glut, Baliang said the DA is focusing on providing technical assistance for post-harvest facilities.

"We should encourage the production of strawberry jams and other products so the fruits will not go to waste," Baliang said.

Chinayo said strawberry farmers also want to learn how to process fresh strawberry into powdered form for juices.

"I hope there will be people who would teach us this kind of technology because this is where we lack knowledge," he said.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's daughter, Luli, does her bit to promote Benguet's strawberry industry, bending low to pick the red fruits during her family's recent visit to Baguio City. PHOTO BY EV ESPIRITU

Chinoys wary of census because of kidnappings

ILAGAN, Isabela—Some members of the Chinese-Filipino community in the country are wary of giving data to census takers for fear that the information would be used against them by the government and criminal groups, an official of the National Statistics Office regional official said.

Lauro Marquez, NSO regional director, said most Chinese-Filipinos have been uncooperative during interviews for fear that the census data taken from them will be used by the government for taxation and other investigations.

Marquez said they also fear that kidnap-for-ransom syndicates would gain access to information on their financial status, making them targets of these syndicates.

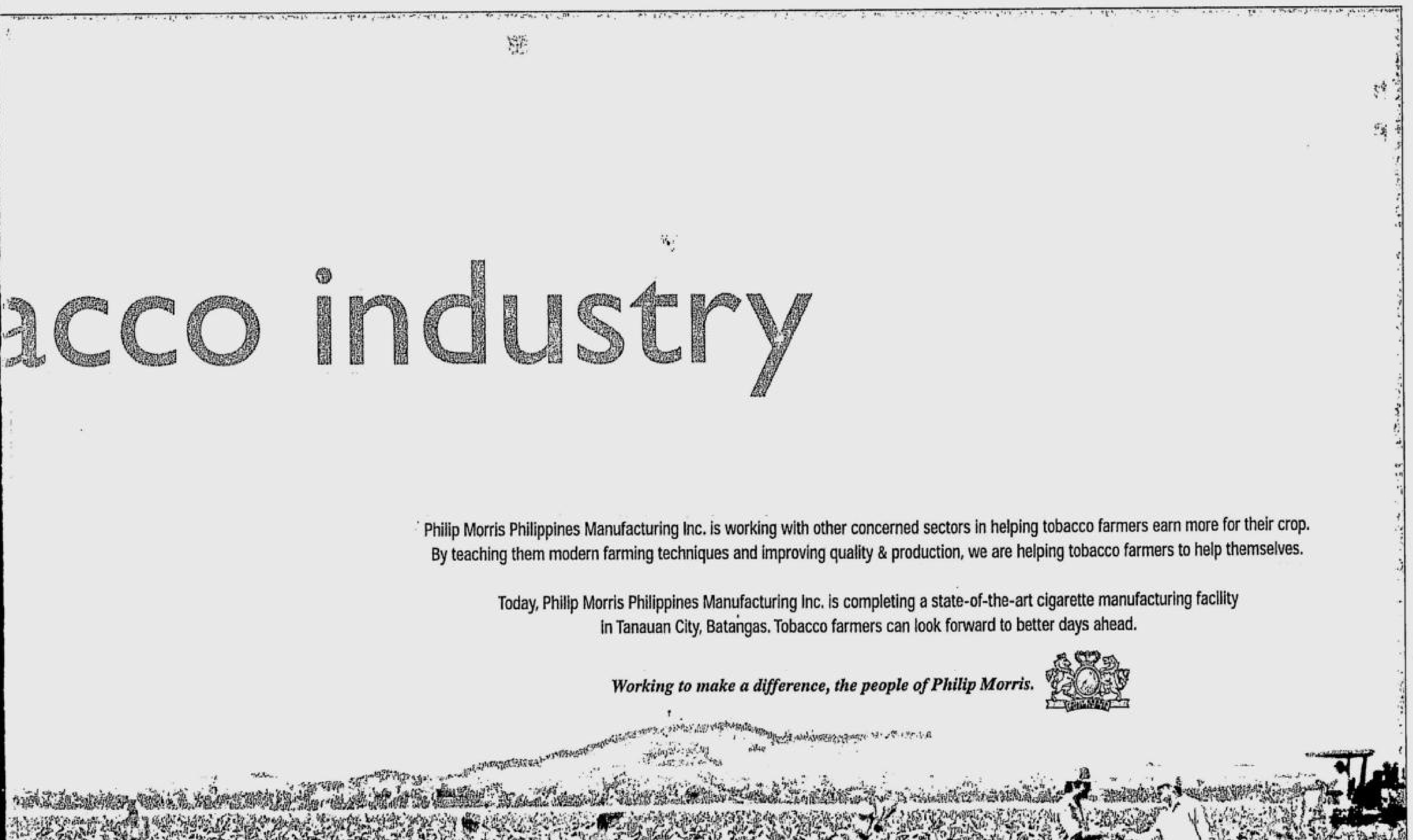
He, however, assured Chinese-Filipinos that the data taken from them will be kept confidential and cannot be used for taxation, investigation and regulation, as embodied by Commonwealth Act 591.

Marquez said NSO officials listed this problem as among the possible barriers in census-taking as the agency prepares for the Census of Agriculture and Fisheries (CAF) in March and September this year.

The CAF, he said, will be the basis of government and private planners in formulating programs for agriculture and health services. Business firms and schools are also using census data in their feasibility studies and research.

Marquez said aside from the hesitance of Chinese-Filipino respondents, they also face problems in conducting the census in rebel, calamity-stricken and military-restricted areas, in slums, villages with no regular transportation and upland communities. Many people also refuse to take part in the census.

"Aside from information dissemination, we need constant coordination . . . to take an accurate data," Marquez said. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



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No one just sits, watch in Ati-atihan

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Kalibo, Aklan

AMONG the various festivals held in honor of the Sto. Niño in the Visayas every January, the Kalibo Ati-Atihan is considered the merriest and the most fascinating.

ATI-ATIHAN, once described by the UN as Asia's best tourist attraction. PDI PHOTO

The festival, held every third Sunday of January, is known for its spontaneous merry-making and street-dancing where anyone could join any of the tribes dancing in the main streets of the capital town of Kalibo.

"Nobody is a spectator," said Edwin Trompeta, tourism regional director.

Trompeta said the Ati-Atihan is unique because the performances are not structured and tribes do not follow a defined route or order of parade.

He also cites the religiosity of the festival that has been preserved despite the packaging of the festival as a tourist attraction.

"The religious from all over the country come to the festival to pay homage to the Sto. Niño," said Trompeta.

Reunions

Benny Tirazona, festival events director, said the Ati-Atihan has also become a venue for family reunions with many non-competing groups or tribes composed of members of clans.

The festival, held Jan. 13-19, attracted 46 tribes, more than the 43 that competed last year.

Aside from the competing tribes, more than 100 other tribes donned costumes and covered their faces and bodies with soot in the street dancing that peaked in the last three days of the festival.

The tribes were categorized as Original/Traditional, Modern and Aboriginal.

Tribes belonging to the first category wore costumes made of indigenous materials such as abaca fibers, shells, feathers and leaves.

The second category was composed of tribes with costumes using more colorful and contemporary material. Tribes under the third grouping were dressed like Aetas with the bodies of performers covered with soot.

This year, the winners in the Original/Traditional, Modern and Aboriginal category received a cash prize of P50,000, P30,000 and P15,000, respectively.

Origin

There were various accounts on the roots of the festival and how it started as a pagan ritual and later became part of Christian tradition.

According to one version, the festival was first held after a peace pact was reached by the Aetas and Malay settlers from Borneo who fought in occasional skirmishes after the Malays settled on Panay Island.

To celebrate the newfound peace and to show their unity, the Malays covered themselves with soot to look like the Aetas.

Another version traced the festival's roots to 1212 when the first wave of Malayans led by 10 Bornean datus (chieftains) landed on the southern shore of Panay, then known as Aninipay.

The datus led by Datu Puti were said to be fleeing their homeland to escape death from the hands of the cruel ruler Datu Makatunaw.

The datus, their families and followers traveled on barangays (swift-sailing boats) and landed on Panay Island. They negotiated with Aeta chieftain Marikudo for the purchase of the island from the Aeta inhabitants.

After weeks of negotiation, the Aetas agreed to sell the plains of the island to the Malay settlers in exchange for a golden *salakot* (native field hat), brass basins, cloth and a trinket.

The "Barter of Panay" was followed by a festive ceremony, said to have lasted for several days, to honor and welcome the new settlers.

In the 18th century, it was said that a Spanish priest moved the date of the festival to coincide with the feast day of the Sto. Niño after he baptized 1,000 inhabitants of Kalibo.

A merry merger of faith

This explained why the festival was both a celebration of Christian vows and the pagan merry-making tradition of Aetas.

Now not just a local affair, the festival has attracted both foreign and local tourists. Many other festivals were patterned after the Ati-Atihan.

In 1983, the United Nations Committee on Tourism selected the festival as Asia's best tourist attraction.

Today, the festival is celebrated in various towns of Aklan during the celebration of their fiestas.

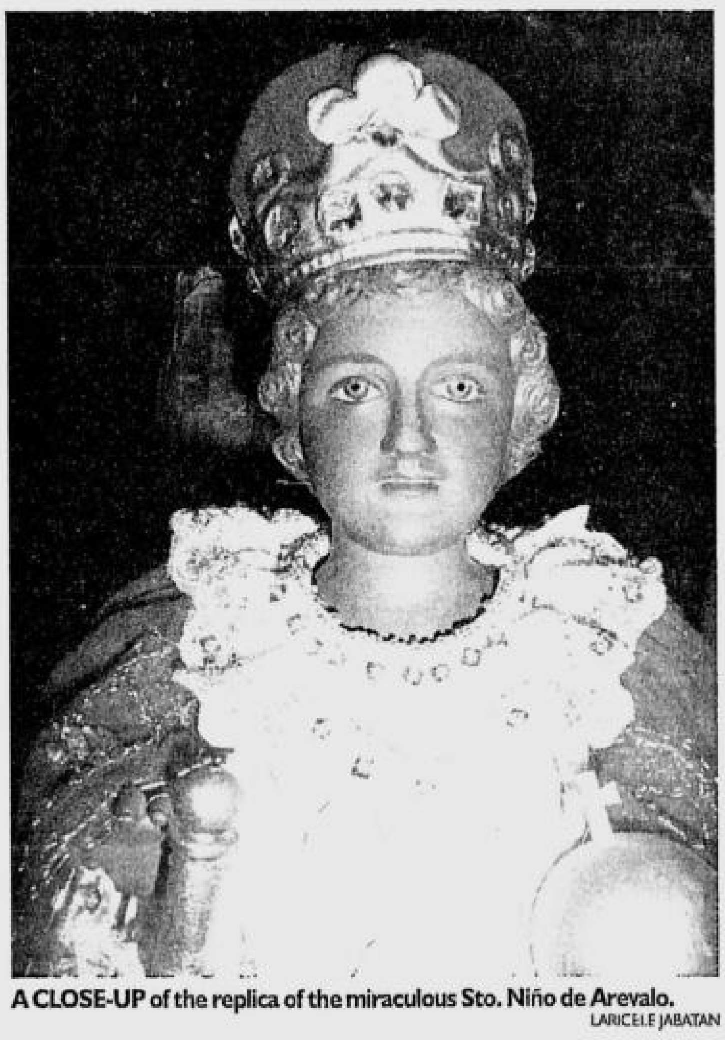
In his book Popular Festivals in Western Visayas, historian Henry Funtecha said Ati-Atihan reflects the fun-loving attitude of Western Visayans, a festival that not only enables one to renew ties and provides opportunity to display opulence but also offers merriment for the people.

Aside from expressing folk Catholicism and pagan practices, the festival is also a commemoration of West Visayan culture and history, according to Funtecha.

Sto. Niño de Arevalo: The lesser known image

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
Iloilo City

VILLA AREVALO district in Iloilo City claims to have the third oldest image of the Holy Child Jesus in the Philippines.



A CLOSE-UP of the replica of the miraculous Sto. Niño de Arevalo. LARICELE JABATAN

But the Sto. Niño de Arevalo, which was brought in by Spanish settlers in 1581, is not as popular as the Sto. Niño de Cebu (1521) or the Sto. Niño de Tondo (1572).

It is not even honored during the tourist-drawing Dinagyang festival, the highlight of which is the choreographed movement of soot-blackened dancers in honor of Sto. Niño de Cebu.

The Augustinians brought its replica in 1968 to the Parish of San Jose in Iloilo City. Its arrival was greeted by people who dressed themselves up as the indigenous Ati dancing to the beat of the drums.

Several towns and parishes in Iloilo have celebrated the feast of the Sto. Niño since then but these are devotional in nature because their patron saints are different.

Tigbauan town honors the Sto. Niño but its patron saint is St. John de Sahagun. San Joaquin parish honors the Sto. Niño but its patron saint is St. Joachim.

The famous Ati-ati festival in Kalibo town in Aklan province is in honor of Sto. Niño but the town's patron saint is St. John the Baptist.

But the Villa Arevalo parish honors the Sto. Niño as its patron saint, celebrating its feast every third Sunday of January.

"Miracles"

But the celebration is overshadowed by the pageantry of the more popular Ati-Atihan of Aklan and Dinagyang of Iloilo.

What the Sto. Niño de Arevalo lacked in popularity, it made up with stories of miracles told by devotees from generation to generation.

Some of these stories were in brochures published by the parish and distributed at the ongoing exhibit of Sto. Niño icons at SM City in Iloilo.

The earliest of such stories was that of an aborted attack by pirates that burned coastal communities in Arevalo, once a shipyard.

Upon the sight of boats thought to be those of pirates, the villagers placed the icon on the beach and prayed for protection.

The boats never made it to shore. According to the story, the pirates were stopped by "a little boy in a red cloak."

During World War II, the image of Sto. Niño was left behind in the church by residents who fled to the mountains to escape the war.

American soldiers decided to burn the municipal building and the "convento," which was beside the church, for fear that the Japanese might convert them into garrisons. The soldiers left hurriedly after setting the buildings on fire.

Residents, who were left behind, saw smoke coming out of the buildings but they were baffled when they noticed that the fire was suddenly put out.

In 1948, a few years after World War II, Iloilo was rocked by a powerful earthquake, which almost toppled the belfry of Villa Arevalo.

The morning after the earthquake, the sacristan saw the church floor strewn with candles, flower vases and potted plants but the Sto. Niño icon stood still on a tall, frail pedestal at the altar.

Reports of healing

Recent stories were too humerous, said Fr. Jerry Locsin, who was parish priest of Villa Arevalo for years.

"There are miracles everyday. They're just too many to be documented," he said.

Most of these are stories of healing and protection during accidents.

Childless couples attribute having children to the image.

Cecilia Gison Villanueva, a member of the Confradia del Sto. Niño de Arevalo, thanked the Sto. Niño for her quick recovery from a gall bladder operation in February 1999.

Aldrin Zabala's mother said Sto. Niño helped Alvin recover from a case of hernia that almost killed him when he was seven.

Aldrin became a Sto. Niño devotee and his hernia healed without surgery or medication.

Hermelo Pido, president of the Confradia del Sto. Niño Arevalo, survived a third stage of cancer of the colon; Teresita Aguirre survived a caesarian section and had her myoma removed in 1995; Virgie Cedeno's goiter shrunk and disappeared in 1994; a boy's migraine was cured and Veronica Bacera's bleeding stopped and her blood pressure returned to normal in 2002.

Nora Tajuela was blessed with two daughters after starting a devotion to the Sto. Niño in 1995.

Forces of nature

The Sto. Niño was also cited for intervening with the forces of nature. Fr. Jose Erardi recalled one hot summer when farms were drying up because of lack of rain.

In August, the priest and some devotees carried the icon in a procession on the shores of Villa Beach while praying for rain, which came on the same afternoon.

Father Locsin said he did the same in 1997, at the height of drought in Iloilo.

He brought the Sto. Niño for a procession again, stopped by a seaside restaurant and bathed the image as everyone prayed.

It rained the following day.

The greatest miracle

But what people from Villa Arevalo considered to be the "greatest miracle" was the completion of the church, which was done amid doubts and the lack of funds.

They said the project fulfills their dream to give a "splendid threshold" to the Sto. Niño.

Locsin said the Sto. Niño de Arevalo is now visited by pilgrims and devotees from all over the country.

"Everyday I would see news faces who are not from Villa Arevalo," he said.

Cebu execs say Sinulog 2003 'bigger, grander'

By Lino Gilbert K. Parone Jr.
Cebu City

LOCAL officials described this year's Sinulog as bigger and better than the previous years'. Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal called it the "grandest time to come together to show our gratitude to the Holy Child for keeping our country safe."

At least 320 balikbayans went home to Cebu. Hundreds of foreigners also took part in the 20-year-old celebration.

But the Feast of the Child Jesus, celebrated every third Sunday of January, was not without any distractions.

On Jan. 17, Basilica rector Fr. Jerome Mesina, was celebrating a 12:30 p.m. Mass at the Pilgrim Center when a 24-year-old woman slashed her left wrist with a blade in front of a shocked crowd.

Guards immediately secured her. They later told the INQUIRER that the bloodied woman, whom they did not want to identify, was frustrated that the Sto. Niño failed to grant her petitions. They wouldn't say what these requests were.

When he learned of the incident, Cardinal Vidal said dire poverty draws people to fanaticism.

"It's a pity that people can do that, but I believe it's because of extreme poverty that they are forced to hold on to anything, even the belief that Sto. Niño will immediately grant them their wishes," he said.

Threats

On the eve of the feast on Jan. 18, Cardinal Vidal received information that the Sinulog would be "disrupted."

How it would be done and who were involved, he did not say. But he prayed to Sto. Niño to keep Cebu safe during a procession that afternoon.

But the report prompted police and city officials to tighten security in the city.

Dogs sniffed for bombs at the Cebu City Sports Center, where more than 120 contingents for the Grand Mardi Gras showed their craft on Jan. 19.

Breach of security

The Sto. Niño image and Our Lady of Guadalupe, the patroness of Cebu, were brought to a yacht at the Ouano Wharf in Mandaue early Jan. 18 after a vigil at the St. Joseph National Shrine in Mandaue.

This began the reenactment of the arrival of Ferdinand Magellan who brought the image to Cebu in 1521.

But security was briefly breached when a male devotee jumped into the yacht as it maneuvered its way out of the wharf.

Wilfredo Atadero was accosted and transferred to a marshal's boat following the yacht.

Atadero said he promised to touch the Sto. Niño to thank the image for healing his sick child.

On Feast Day itself on Jan. 19, Vidal's 6 a.m. Mass at the Pilgrim Center went on smoothly. But in the afternoon, a false bomb alarm caused a brief stampede at the Fuente Osmena.

At the Cebu City Sports Complex, 12 dancers suffered foot burns after dancing on an enamel-covered stage in the intense heat of a midday sun.

Sea of people

But nothing could overshadow the thousands who flocked to the Basilica to pay homage to the Child Jesus.

The faithful stayed on for the 6 a.m. Mass after a 4 a.m. Mass said by Msgr. Frederick Kriekenbeck. Some of them came as early as 2 a.m.

During the Mass, hundreds of multi-colored balloons with written petitions tied to some of them, were let loose when the choir began singing the popular Cebuano song "Batobalani sa gugma (magnet of love)."

By 9 a.m., a sea of people filled the city's streets to watch the Grand Parade despite an oppressive heat of 30.2 degrees Fahrenheit.

Supt. Lani-O Nerez, police chief for operations, said the crowd was over 200,000, "twice or even thrice bigger than last year's."

Spectators were overflowing at the 15,000-capacity open stadium.

Show of devotion

Visiting California Bishop Dennis O'Neal was moved by the show of faith.

"How I wish we could have this zealousness and intensity that you have shown today," he said.

O'Neal, who passed by Cebu with 20 other priests from the United States, Eu[illegible]d Australia on the way to the 4th World Meeting of Families in Manila, received an icon of the Sto. Niño from Vidal.

Torture persists in RP, Amnesty Int'l reports

From page A1

punity."

The lengthy report detailed several instances of torture cases, several of which were fully documented and filed before the proper government agencies.

One case it cited was that of the Abadilla 5—five men who were sentenced to death in August 1999 for the 1996 assassination of former Col. Rolando Abadilla. The five were convicted on the basis of their alleged "tortured" confessions and the uncorroborated testimony of a lone eyewitness.

The story of the Abadilla 5 was featured by the INQUIRER in a series of special reports last month. On Jan. 9, acting Justice Secretary Merceditas Gutierrez ordered the reopening of the human rights violations complaint filed by the convicts (then still the accused) six years ago against 26 people, including several ranking police officers.

Sub judice

The Department of Justice, in 2001, dismissed the complaint saying the issue was *sub judice* because the death penalty case was the subject of an automatic review by the Supreme Court.

"On paper many of the critical elements necessary for the prevention of torture and other grave human rights violations are already in place... Yet torture persists, constituting one of the most serious assaults on the principle of respect for human dignity," AI said of torture cases in the Philippines.

It noted that the country had ratified the United Nations Convention Against Torture, has a Constitution that safeguards the rights of the people, has put up complaints bodies, including the Commission on Human Rights, has a judiciary that could ensure the delivery of justice and provide redress, and largely respects freedom of expression and helps sustain a lively free press.

Still, law enforcement officers resort to torture.

As in the past, those most at risk of torture are alleged members of armed opposition groups, their suspected sympathizers and ordinary criminal suspects, AI said. Members of poor communities, including women and children who are suspected of committing criminal acts, are also particularly vulnerable.

Third degree

Torture continues because perpetrators believe that they will go unpunished.

"They are aware that criminal convictions of law enforcement officers accused of torture are extremely rare and that administrative sanctions tend to be short-lived. They have few qualms about threatening further reprisals if a victim attempts to pursue a complaint," AI said. "With no compelling incentive to change their behavior, patterns of violations persist."

The report said many law enforcers seem to believe that "third degree" interrogation methods are necessary in fighting crime or in intelligence gathering.

Police officers are also under pressure to solve crimes and lack confidence in the judicial process, it said.

The report listed the most common torture methods resorted to by law enforcement officers in extracting information and forcing confessions:

- Placing a plastic bag over the head of the detainee and holding it tightly at the back to induce suffocation (known as "dry submarine" or *sinupot*).
- Giving electro-shocks either directly onto the skin, or with water poured over the body and bare electric wires touched against the genitals, lips, ears, arms or legs.
- Placing or tying a cloth over the face of the detainee and pouring or dripping water over the cloth to create gradual suffocation (known as "water cure"). Water may also be poured directly into the nostrils or mouth, or the detainee's head forced down toilet bowls or into water containers.
- Assault, including being punched with fists (at times with bullets held between the interrogator's fingers), beaten with rifle butts or batons which may be wrapped in newspaper or other material. Beating is often concentrated on the stomach area, which tends not to leave such visible bruising as elsewhere on the body.
- Burning the skin (including the lips, nipples and ears) with cigarettes.
- Placing bullets between the fingers and squeezing tightly.
- Placing pistol or rifle barrels against the detainee's head or in his or her mouth and threatening the suspect with death while discharging firearms nearby.
- Repeatedly hitting the detainee's fingers and toes with metal pipes or gun barrels.
- Tying the detainee's neck tightly with nylon rope. Sometimes plastic bags have also been wrapped around the detainee's head using masking tape.
- Forcing the suspect to drink excessive amounts of water or other liquids.
- Placing chili pepper on the suspect's eyes or genitals, or inserting the detainee's penis into bottles containing gasoline mixed with chili.

Recommendations

The AI report made several recommendations based on the detailed safeguards set out by the UN Human Rights Committee, the UN Committee Against Torture and the UN Special Rapporteur on torture:

- Legislation defining and penalizing torture which fully reflect the provisions of the Convention against Torture.
- Operational codes ensuring that officers identify themselves, inform suspects of the reason for arrest and of their rights including access to counsel, family members and medical assistance.
- Re-informing detainees of their rights (including the right against self-incrimination, the right to remain silent and the right to have a lawyer present) prior to interrogation.
- Keeping thorough documentation of interrogations including the names of all participants and prohibiting the blind-folding and hooding of suspects and the use of unofficial places of detention.
- Evidence at trial which has been obtained through torture should not be accepted except as testimony against those who have used torture.

Not funny, critics say of Gloria joke

From page A1

of staff, could she have been joking as well when she declared that she was not running in the 2004 presidential race?

House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla said he was nonplussed by the President's recent statements that are later explained away as jokes by her aides.

"Now I'm beginning to believe that her pronouncement that she was not running in 2004 was a joke only," Padilla said.

But if the President was joking, nobody is laughing, said Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, the stern former general and AFP chief of staff who takes exception to such levity about military matters.

"The appointment of an AFP chief of staff is a serious national security concern and should not be treated lightly or even thought of as a joking matter," said Biazon.

"The seeming cavalier treatment of this very serious issue could only erode the credibility of government," warned Biazon who had earlier welcomed the announcement as he said it signaled the end of Ms Macapagal's practice of appointing short-term AFP chiefs of staff.

If, as presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye hinted, the President's untimely announcement that Abaya would succeed AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Dionisio R. Santiago was meant to be a joke, "I am not laughing and nobody is laughing," said Biazon, the vice chair of the Senate committee on national defense and security.

He said Bunye had done a disservice to the President and to the Filipino people if it would later be proved that the President did not make the announcement in jest.

Padilla said the Chief Executive should not make announcements and then take them back as this affected her credibility.

He said the effect of Bunye's statement on the Abaya appointment was "demoralizing" to AFP members.

He also cited the President's recent about-face on an earlier decision to abolish the Public Estates Authority by appointing a new set of PEA officers.

The President "should be careful with her pronouncements," the minority leader said.

In a visit to Datu Sinsuat in Mindanao on Tuesday, the President referred to Abaya, the chief of the Southern Command, as the "next chief of staff."

When she spoke to reporters in Davao City later that night, she praised Abaya's battle record and coyly hinted at his being the next AFP chief of staff.

But in his regular news briefing the following Thursday, Bunye said the President had not categorically stated that Abaya would be appointed. He said Abaya would still have to go through the selection process. And then he hinted that the President's announcement could have been made in jest.

The announcement actually elicited positive comments from a number of legislators, beginning with Biazon himself who praised the choice of Abaya and the timing of the announcement.

Sen. Edgardo Angara said the incoming AFP chief of staff should serve for a period of at least two years to inject boldness and dynamism into the Armed Forces.

"The President should break the cycle of appointing chiefs of staff that serve for very short terms. I believe that the first order of the day is to give the new chief of staff a longer term or a tenure of two years," Angara said.

Angara said chiefs of staff with short tenures cannot even make bold and daring decisions since such decisions have accompanying risks.

"A chief of staff with a tenure of a few months will be more inclined to just preserve the status quo and make risk-free and timid decisions," he said.

Flock ...

From page A1

the group, in fact, distanced themselves from Velarde when he actively supported then President Joseph Estrada, but that they went back to El Shaddai when Velarde kept a low profile.

Velarde decision

Bacani said the El Shaddai flock's preference for a nonpartisan leader was the reason Velarde announced recently that he was not running for office nor would he allow El Shaddai prayer meetings to be used as a venue for politics.

"The initial feedback came from them, but (Velarde) made the decision on his own," Bacani said of Velarde's announcement which was made during the launching of the Bangon Pilipino Movement last week.

Velarde had said then that he was mulling the possibility of no longer allowing politicians to go on stage during El Shaddai prayer rallies unless they are card-bearing members of the group.

A stream of politicians mount the El Shaddai stage during the sect's weekly rallies during electoral campaigns hoping for the "anointment" of Velarde.

Bacani lauded Velarde's decision.

"The El Shaddai will no longer allow itself to be used by politicians. If they do not attend our regular prayer meetings, we will not allow them to take prominent seats on stage as the (2004) election nears," Bacani said.

"We will not give them any prominence (as it might) give the impression that they are being supported by the prayer partners," Bacani added.

Bacani admitted that some parish priests were "hesitant to welcome and some do not want" to see activities of charismatic groups in their parishes. But he said this attitude was now changing.

"It's a slow process, but its happening," he said of the acceptance of priests of the influence of charismatic leaders who reportedly raid their flock and the resources of the parishes.

GMA asked to explain 'new' population tack

From page A1

gal-Arroyo last Wednesday that there was a strong correlation between poverty and high population growth, necessitating the implementation of a proactive population control program.

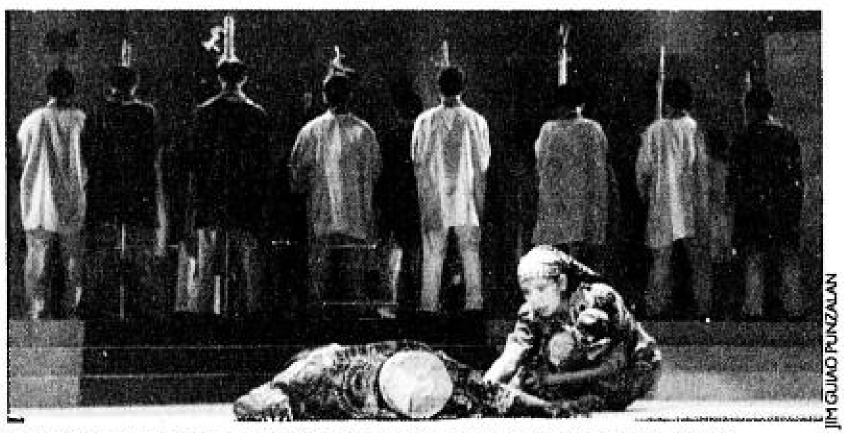
"She said there was a direct link between population and development. I think it ought to be noted by the media that that statement ought to be carefully explained," Bacani said during a press briefing yesterday at the Fourth World Meeting of Families.

In a speech delivered for her by Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo during the opening of the conference, the President said there was a "direct link among poverty, family size and the quality of life of children and parents" and that her administration was working to address the problem of the country's "high birth rate."

Ms Macapagal said the reason Filipinos have failed to live by the "tenets of responsible parenthood" was due to the fact that they were not properly informed about the matter.

She said she has ordered the health department to conduct a national campaign to "enable all Filipino families to make informed choices through fertility awareness education."

Bacani said the President must explain these policies thoroughly to Church officials.



JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

MUSICAL interlude is provided by seminarians from the Divine Word Seminary in Tagaytay on the third day of the pastoral congress at the PICC.

Although "carefully worded" and "innocent," he said it could actually be the President's way of announcing a new population control policy.

"The statements of the President were couched in such a way that they were meant not to offend, but she was trying . . . honestly to explain her administration's (new population policy)," Bacani said.

Catholic rabbits

On the matter of disseminating information on birth control methods, Bacani said this should be done in a "transparent" manner.

"I do hope that the information is really full, that it also explains to the people the side effects, the evil effects and even the abortifacient effects of some of these population control methods," he said.

Bacani explained that the church supports responsible parenthood and does not want people to "propagate simply like Catholic rabbits."

Other Church officials admitted that they, too, were "concerned" about the President's speech.

"It sounds serious, but we are willing to hear her out first before commenting on it," said a ranking church official who asked not to be named.

The conference yesterday centered on what it called the "culture of death" as evidenced by the acceptance of abortion by governments all over the world.

Delegates to the meeting issued a statement declaring their opposition to abortion.

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Peace talks to continue despite Kintanar slay

From page A1

In a phone interview , Silvestre Bello III, chair of the government negotiating panel, said that investigators should be allowed first to finish the probe on who were responsible for slaying Kintanar.

"Let's allow our investigators to conduct a speedy and thorough probe, after which the government will take its course of action," Bello said.

Bello said that his panel is awaiting final instructions from the Palace regarding the resumption of the talks.

A Palace source said that the Bello panel may be dispatched soon to The Netherlands, base of the self-exiled leaders of the CPP and the NDF led by founder Jose Ma. Sison.

Talks were suspended in June 2001 after communist rebels killed former Cagayan Rep. Rodolfo Aguinaldo, a former intelligence officer of the now defunct Philippine Constabulary.

Fear of derailment

But in Camp Dangwa, La Trinidad, Benguet, Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., Philippine National Police chief, said the Kintanar murder might derail the government's peace negotiations.

"I met Kintanar and Arturo Tabara of the breakaway group, Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPA-ABB) on Tuesday to finalize the peace talks agreement. Unfortunately, we could never finish it now (with Kintanar's death)," Ebdane said here on Friday.

The PNP chief was in Camp Dangwa to attend the 12th PNP anniversary celebration.

He said he had been meeting with Kintanar and Tabara to discuss the provisions of the peace agreement, "which are almost finished."

Ebdane said Kintanar's death also signals a new wave of a nationwide crackdown on former rebels by the NPA, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

Police, he said, are checking reports the gunmen are members of the NPA's urban guerrilla squad, which Kintanar organized during his involvement with the communist movement. *(Story on page A1)*

Keeping rebel returnees safe

The formation of the hit squads, he claimed, was ordered by CPP founder Jose Maria Sison.

"They could have started operating nationwide without our knowledge. As proof, an Army major was killed in Samar on Thursday while another noncommissioned officer was abducted around 8 p.m. on the same day," Ebdane said.

"We will exhaust the PNP's intelligence capabilities (to solve the case). (We want to prove that) the government is (prioritizing) the safety of rebels who return to the fold of the law," Ebdane said.

Terrorist label

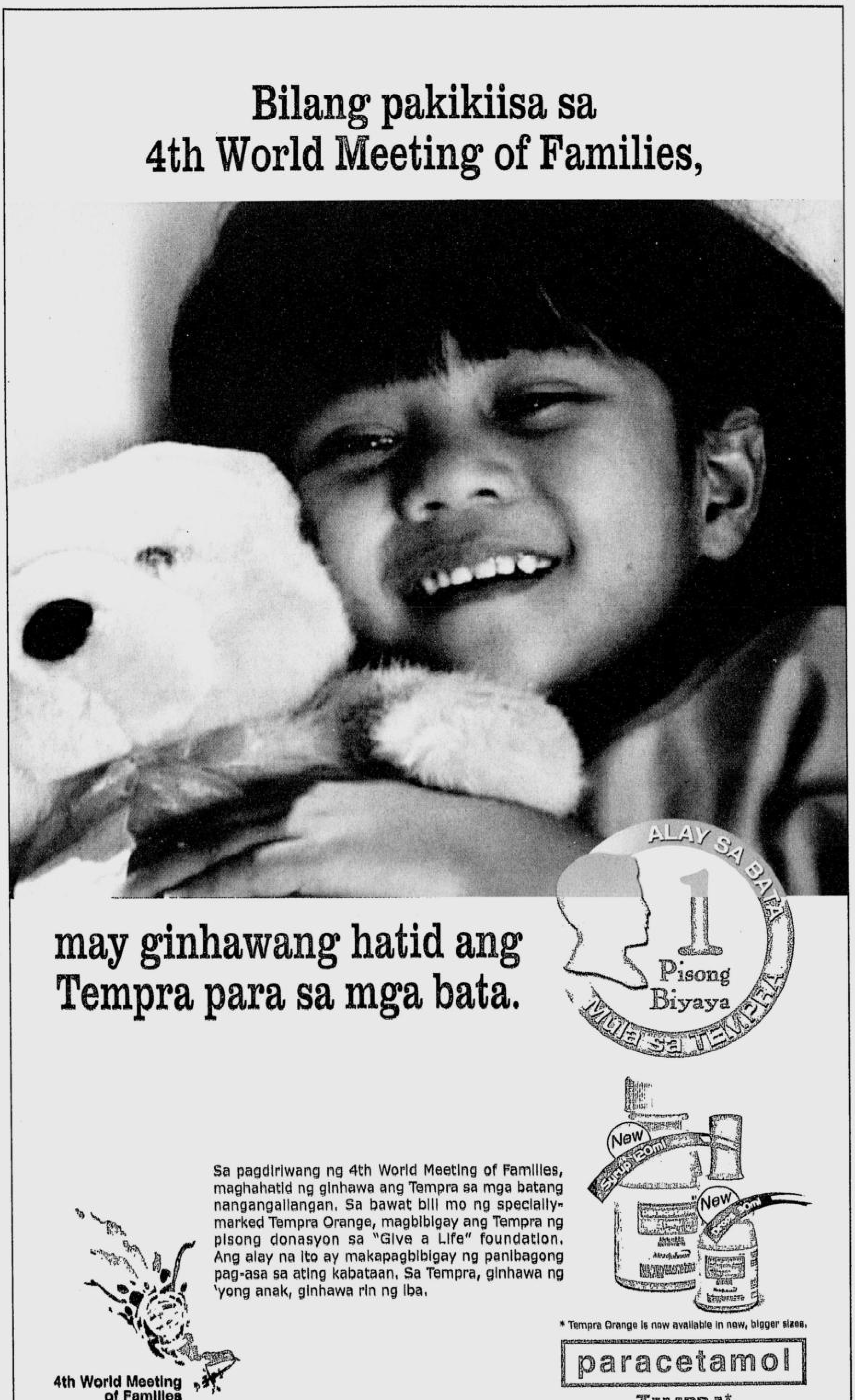
The CPP, NPA and NDF had been tagged terrorist organizations by the US, Canada, Great Britain and members of the European Union.

President Macapagal said that she sees no problem in talking peace with communist rebels despite such terrorist labelling.

She cited the peace talks between the Sri Lankan government and the Tamil Tigers, a rebel group that has been also tagged as a terrorist organization.

President Macapagal also noted that even the US is talking peace with the Palestinian Liberation Organization of Yasser Arafat and "yet they (PLO) are being tagged as a terrorist group."

Ms Macapagal further noted that during the Vietnam War, peace talks were also pursued with the Viet Cong even though the rebels were considered by the US and the Vietnamese government as terrorists.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GMA visit to Kintanar wake reopens old wounds

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

"*NAGTATAMPO daw kayo* (I heard you're sulking)," said a beaming President Macapagal to members of the Malacañang press corps assembled at the State Dining Hall.

The President's surprise visit yesterday to Funeraria Paz to condole with family of New People's Army chief Romulo Kintanar had caught the Palace press off guard. And they didn't like it.

The President tried to make it up to the press by inviting them to a rare impromptu press conference where she answered all the reporters' questions related to the Kintanar killing.

Tagged by media as the "*taray* queen," for her public display of temper, it was the first time the President went out of her way to appease the Malacañang media.

Unscheduled

A Palace official told reporters that the visit was not in the President's schedule that day. She just happened to pass by the area where the funeral parlor is located and decided to drop in. Kintanar's widow, Joy, was there to meet her, according to the Palace official.

The President's staff had not advised the media who religiously cover the President's daily activities, about the visit.

Worse, before she left, the President gave in to an "ambush interview" by a handful of reporters who were covering the wake.

Last year the President banned ambush interviews, saying such interviews were "unpresidential."

Palace reporters pointed this out to Malacañang press officials, who in turn conveyed it to the President.

Late last year, Palace reporters complained that the President was making herself unavailable to the media.

The reporters complained that occasions where the President gave policy speeches were closed to the media.

They also complained that her spokesmen Rigoberto Tiglao and Ignacio Bunye held news briefings past their deadlines.

Tiglao promised then to open to media coverage all occasions where the President would give a speech.

Tiglao . . .

From page A1

final years.

Ms Macapagal confirmed that Tiglao, who used to head the Manila-Rizal committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines in the early 1970s, is on the "hit list" of an urban communist liquidation squad.

"Kintanar was on that hit list," the President said.

Tiglao was reportedly placed on the communist hit list because of strong criticisms he had made against the communist movement during his tenure as spokesperson of Ms Macapagal.

At one time, Tiglao had appealed to his former comrades to stop using violence as a means to their political ends.

"Yes. Correct. That's right," President Macapagal said when asked to confirm if Tiglao and other unnamed members of her Cabinet were on the communist hit list.

Ms Macapagal, however, said the threat was not the reason why he was pulled out as presidential spokesperson and designated only this month as full-time chief of staff.

The President said that security for Tiglao and her other officials had been upgraded.

Murder order

In a prepared statement, Tiglao called on communist leaders like Jose Ma. Sison, Benito Tiamzon, Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal and former National Democratic Front spokesperson and Bayan Muna sectoral Rep. Satur Ocampo to "declare publicly that the Communist Party had not issued such an assassination order against me."

Tiglao said he was "quite confident that none of my many comrades of three decades ago . . . believes that I have done anything to deserve a murder order."

To strengthen, not destroy

He said he joined the government "in the belief that the path to progress is to strengthen the Filipino nation-state so it may serve the people, not to destroy it."

"The road to liberation cannot be over the graves of our fellow Filipinos. I do not think such principles are grounds for a murder order issued against me as reported by our intelligence services, allegedly by the Communist Party," Tiglao said.

Asked if recently appointed Press Secretary Hernani Braganza, also a former student activist in the '80s, was also on the list, Ms Macapagal said: "What I know is he is not included yet."

"I hope there will be no more addition to the list," the President said.

Deep divisions

"In any case, even as we take care of security threats on specific individuals, it is also important that we continue with working for the healing of the deep divisions in our society," President Macapagal also said.

The President said that assassinations like that of Kintanar were "manifestations of these deep divisions."

President Macapagal reiterated that her move to convene a council of state was meant to draw in "participants of this great divide."

Another former NPA leader slain in Bulacan

By Carmela Reyes
PDI Central Luzon Desk
and PDI Research

CALUMPIT, Bulacan—A believed former leader of the New People's Army was shot dead yesterday morning in front of his house in Barangay Pungo here.

Police said that based on witnesses' accounts, Luis Reyes, alias "Ka Allan," 45, could have been killed by his former comrades because he appeared to know his attackers.

Witnesses said Reyes was in front of his house at around 8:20 a.m. when two men approached. He supposedly put his arm around the shoulders of one while inviting both inside for coffee.

While the three were walking toward the back door of the house, the witnesses said, one of the visitors pulled out a .45 cal. pistol and shot Reyes in the head and body, killing him instantly.

Police said Reyes' attackers fled on foot. Five empty shells were found at the crime scene.

But Supt. Arnold Gunnacao, intelligence and investigation officer of the Bulacan police, said that based on their records, Reyes was an "ordinary NPA member" and surrendered to police and local officials in 1985. A longtime neighbor of Reyes also said he was not a leader of the NPA.

A source from the communist movement in Central Luzon said a possible motive in Reyes' killing was a land dispute in Barangay Pungo.

The source said Reyes surrendered in 1990 and was active in the NPA as a member of the provincial partisan operatives in Bulacan in the 1980s.

The source added that Reyes had no known case against the masses and was loyal to the movement when he was an NPA member.

Other killings

Other ex-members of the Communist Party of the Philippines met violent deaths.

On Jan. 15, four yet unidentified gunmen shot dead Oscar Dahiroc alias Commander Bomber just outside the crowded Teresita Cockpit in Pagadian City.

Dahiroc, former deputy secretary of the NPA's Front Committee Amores and a voting member of the CPP's Western Mindanao Regional Party Committee, was about to leave the cockpit at around 4:40 a.m. when attacked.

Pagadian City police chief Nelson Eucogco said the killers appeared "very mad" at Dahiroc because they emptied their pistols on him.

The killing of ex-rebels Edgar Intervension of Negros Occidental and Melchor de los Santos of Tarlac has also been attributed to their former comrades.

Intervension and his son Leo were killed last November. Another son of Intervension was wounded when supposed communist rebels fired at them inside their house in a remote village in Moises Padilla town.

Lt. Col. Gregorio Fajardo, 11th Infantry Battalion commanding officer, said Intervension had been asked by his ex-comrades to return to the rebel movement. His refusal supposedly led the NPA to suspect that he had become a military informer.

But Fajardo said he was not aware that the Intervensions were military assets. He said the family had merely accommodated soldiers who happened to drop in at their house.

A year earlier, De los Santos, then 27, was shot dead in front of his mother, wife and other family members in Sta. Ignacia town.

Also killed in cold blood were De los Santos' father Dominador and younger brother Falcon.

On the day he was killed, De los Santos, also known as "Ka Rosa" in the communist movement, was about to file a counter-affidavit denying his involvement in the Nov. 10 burning of telecommunications equipment in Tarlac.

De los Santos was vice unit commander of the NPA before he surrendered to authorities in July 2001.

But Serafin Magdiwang, spokesperson of the NPA's Nelson Mesina Command, said it was a "revenge killing" by the police and military in Tarlac. *With a report from Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Joma: Don't look at me

From page A1

In Manila, Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo made a similar point.

He said that in the absence of a statement from the CPP/NPA claiming responsibility for the murder, police investigators should look in other directions.

"Without a statement, we have no basis [to say who killed Kintanar]. It's hard to speculate," said Ocampo, a former spokesperson of the communist-led National Democratic Front of which Sison is chief political consultant.

Ocampo said Kintanar's killing had given way to certain surprising revelations, such as that the latter was serving as a consultant to the military.

Another revelation, Ocampo said, was Supt. Robert Delfin's statement quoting Kintanar as saying during one of their meetings that a supposed liquidation squad was after him.

Ocampo also said Kintanar's killing would not affect the peace talks, now stalled, between the government and the NDF, "unless they [the government] admit that he was working for them." *(See story on Page A1)*

Ocampo reiterated that he was not aware of any order to liquidate Kintanar after the latter broke away from Sison's leadership and left the CPP/NPA in 1991.

"Even if I have left the underground movement, I would have heard from the grapevine," the party-list representative said. "But as far as I can tell, even at the height of the [internal ideological] debate when some were denounced as renegades, there was no order to physically eliminate them."

Ocampo said it was only expected that the police and military would be quick to tag the CPP/NPA as Kintanar's killers.

"[But the investigators] should trace his other connections, including the information that he [had] a detective agency and provided security and intelligence services. They should look at all possibilities," Ocampo said.

Criminal operations

In his e-mail, Sison said Kintanar became involved in "criminal operations in which corrupt military and police officers were either his co-operators or his rivals and enemies."

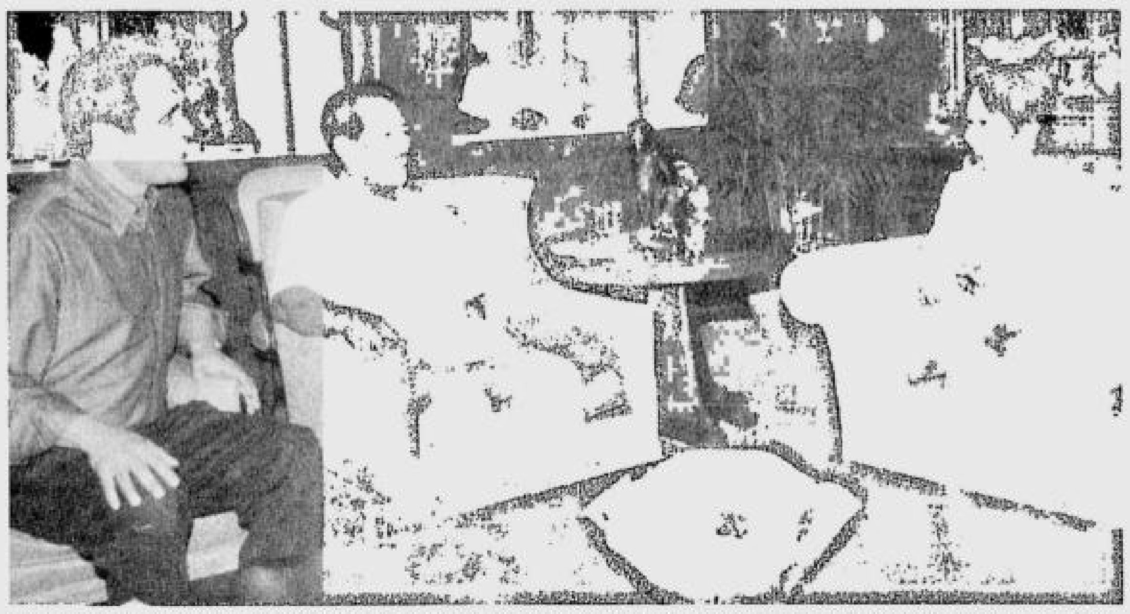
He listed these supposed operations as protection rackets, armed robbery, murder for hire, collection of unwarranted fees from overseas Filipino workers, and sale of women entertainers abroad, in which Kintanar allegedly engaged when he became an "intelligence operative" of the military and police "under the guise of consultant," and security chief of the Bureau of Immigration.

Sison pointed out that the US Central Intelligence Agency and Special Forces had long been angry over the killing of US military personnel, particularly Col. James Rowe, in 1988-1990 when Kintanar headed the NPA.

"The US seemed uninterested in holding him to account for the killing of the Americans. Instead, it has now and then unjustly blamed me for those killings," Sison said.

He likewise said the killing of Kintanar could be "the prelude to one more assassination plot" against him, "particularly under the wide latitude given by [US President George W.] Bush to CIA covert operatives to engage in wet operations or assassinations."

The US government recently included Sison and the NPA in its list of terrorists.



UNLIKELY advocates of the peace process, Rolly Kintanar (left) and ex-CPP chair Rodolfo "Commander Bilog" Salas pay courtesy call on the President last August.
MALACAÑANG FILE PHOTO

Sison also said he had "never taken any interest in Kintanar other than publicly exposing his criminal activities."

He said these alleged activities "were either damaging to the people and the national democratic movement, or threatening to my life and physical integrity, as in the last year of [Joseph] Estrada's presidency."

"Every time I denounced him, I was satisfied that I was able to expose and frustrate him to some extent in his wrongdoing," Sison said.

He added that he thought it unlikely that police investigators would come up with credible findings and conclusions.

Revelations

But Deputy Speaker for the Visayas Raul Gonzalez said there was no doubt that Kintanar was killed by the CPP/NPA.

"I think it is very clear that he was liquidated, and who will do that but the group of Joma Sison, which has a track record of killing separatist people who denounce their movement?" Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez said he spoke with Kintanar about three months ago, and that the latter talked about having renounced the revolutionary movement.

According to Gonzalez, the killing of Kintanar only proves that the government's efforts at talking peace with the NDF are an "exercise in futility." *Reports from Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Juliet L. Javellana and Agnes E. Donato in Manila*

Hit squads on the loose; gov't says NPA assasins out to get prominent targets

From page A1

Victor Corpus, and even businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco.

Other supposed targets are Chief Superintendents Reynaldo Berroya of the Civil Security Group and Enrique Galang of Region 4.

These people are targets because they are perceived to have interfered with the interests of the NPA and the Communist Party of the Philippines, said Delfin, who described the liquidation plot against him as "generic."

In Malacañang, the President directed Interior Secretary Jose Lina and Director General Hermogenes Ebdane of the PNP to crack down on "urban guerrilla hit squads that may be operating in Metro Manila."

She ordered the formation of a "special task force" to be led by Chief Supt. Romeo Maganto to neutralize the hit squads. Maganto will be assisted by Delfin and Sr. Supt. Rodolfo "Boogie" Mendoza, PNP provincial commander for Pampanga.

Maganto's name rose to national prominence in the late 1980s when, then the police chief of Tondo, Manila, he styled himself as the "sparrow hunter."

Communist hit men operating in Metro Manila were then known as belonging to the "Sparrow Unit."

"The task force is hereby empowered to use all available means in our democratic arsenal to carry out my instructions," Ms Macapagal said in a statement that her spokesperson, Ignacio Bunye, read after emerging from a meeting of the Cabinet oversight committee on internal security.

The meeting was called in the wake of Kintanar's killing, which, Central Police District director Sr. Supt. Napoleon Castro said yesterday, was most likely pulled off by his former comrades in the CPP/NPA.

"That it was his former comrades who did it is still the prevailing theory," Castro said. "Knowing the style of these people, when one of their comrades leaves and joins the government, it is considered a mortal sin of which the punishment is death."

Castro also said the act of "clearing a target"—in which a gunman approaches a felled victim to finish him off with more bullets—was "a signature of NPA hit teams."

Defectors

Defense Secretary Reyes said the NPA was indeed targeting other ex-communist rebels for assassination. He made the comment in the course of scoffing at the suggestion that the murder of Kintanar was perpetrated by government men to avenge the killings of their colleagues in the past.

"Yes, the people who are likely targets [are those] who defected from the NPA," Reyes said the other night, adding that the "defectors" knew this and had taken precautionary measures.

"Ka Rolly [and] some members of the CPP/NPA who went back to mainstream society have been natural targets for assassination for some time now," he said.

Asked if the "targets" would be provided security, he said this would be done "within the limits" of government resources.

Reyes said Kintanar was killed by the NPA because he advocated reforms instead of revolution.

Asked what was the basis of his accusation, Reyes merely said: "Our intelligence reports point to that direction."

The President went to the wake for Kintanar at Funeraria Paz in Quezon City at noon yesterday and condoled with his widow, Ma. Gloria "Joy" Asuncion. In the afternoon, she invited Malacañang reporters to a talk inside the Palace.

"This is a very cruel assassination and we must not allow this to continue," Ms Macapagal said.

She clarified that her orders to Maganto were for him to go after urban hit squads and not specifically the killers of Kintanar.

However, she said that it might later turn out that Maganto's targets and Kintanar's killers were "one and the same."

The President described Kintanar as a "good citizen" who had been helping the government in the peace process.

She said Maganto's team could do everything "short of violating the law."

Maganto was recently taken off "floating" status to lead a task force to hunt down fugitive Supt. Rafael Cardeño, principal suspect in the slaying of self-styled Young Officers Union spokesperson Baron Cervantes late in 2001.

Maganto's assistants, Delfin and Mendoza, are veteran communist hunters and intelligence officers. The two were credited for the capture of several members of the NPA's Alex Boncayao Brigade.

The ABB, notorious for its daring assassination of "abusive" police and military officials in the late 1980s, broke away from the group of CPP founding chair Jose Ma. Sison because of policy differences.

Terrorist message

Delfin said the NSOG was formed only two years ago. But Brig. Gen. Pedro Cabuay, incoming Armed Forces deputy chief of staff for intelligence, said it had been existing for years in the shadow of the ABB.

Officials have no estimates of the hit squad's current strength.

AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Dionisio Santiago sought to downplay the "revival" of the hit squad, saying it was "normal" and was aimed at "striking fear" in those who refused to cooperate with the NPA.

"It's an active terrorist propaganda: If you don't cooperate, we'll kill you. That's the kind of message they want to send across," Santiago said at a security briefing in Camp Aguinaldo.

Citing intelligence information, police and military officials said the NSOG killed Kintanar because of his "supposed sins" against the CPP/NPA.

Intelligence sources said NSOG cadres met in Manila as early as August last year to finalize the plans to liquidate Kintanar.

Delfin told reporters that the killings of Kintanar and Reyes were "part of the NPA's destabilization plot against the administration."

"Remember, the leaders distanced themselves and vowed to fight the administration?" he said.

Delfin also warned that ex-rebel leaders who turned against Sison could be the next targets.

He said Kintanar became a hot target for liquidation when, in the last quarter of last year, he started laying the groundwork for a foundation that would serve as a support group for rebel returnees.

The foundation, as yet unnamed and unregistered with the Securities and Exchange Commission, was to provide a source of livelihood for the rebel returnees, he said.

"In effect, he convinced some rebels to lay down their arms and lead quiet lives, which ran contrary to the policy of the NPA hierarchy to win more people to its fold," said Delfin, who led the capture of Kintanar and then NPA leader Rafael Baylosis in their safe house in San Juan on March 29, 1988.

"That's the reason he was killed—he had been helping the government," added General Santiago.

Kintanar, according to Delfin, knew he was a target for liquidation two years ago and even sought out the cadre dispatched by the NPA to kill him. The alleged assassin was identified as Philip Limjoco.

"Just a month ago, Kintanar went to Limjoco's safe house in Cavite to coax him not to press ahead with his plans. Apparently, Kintanar failed to see him," Delfin said, recalling his conversations with Kintanar in the past weeks.

"It was widely known in the organization that Limjoco was [assigned] to do him in," Delfin added.

Limjoco and a certain Bartolome Melchor supposedly belong to the NPA hit squad. Delfin said both were members of the Armed City Partisans, precursor of the ABB, and were captured by police years ago but later escaped.

Delfin declined to comment whether Limjoco resembled the artist's sketch of one of Kintanar's killers, which the Central Police District had released.

The killer was described as 50-55 years old, standing 5'5" to 5'7", weighing 150-160 pounds, and of medium build and fair complexion.

But the age factor is puzzling investigators.

"Usually, communist hit men are around 25 years old," said the CPD's Castro. "But the suspects in the Kintanar case are around 40-50 years old. Second, communist hit men don't use clutch bags to hold their guns. It attracts too much attention."

One of Kintanar's attackers was said to have carried a clutch bag.

On the other hand, Castro said the gunmen could have been hired professional hit men.

But according to Castro, witnesses said Kintanar was "very uneasy and looking around" the Kamameshi Restaurant just before he was shot.

"This could mean he spotted someone whom he knew and was wary of," Castro said.

However, Castro continued, hit teams did not usually send assassins "known to the target."

"We are still puzzled by the fact that if Kintanar knew his assailants or was at least suspicious of [them], why didn't he confront [them]?" Castro said. "Why didn't he leave immediately? Why didn't he warn his companions? Why didn't he draw his own gun, and why did he seem surprised at the attack?"

Chief Insp. Reynaldo de Guzman, chief of the crime laboratory's firearms identification division, said a special ammunition commercially called eliminator was used in killing Kintanar.

It creates a "mushroom-like formation" upon hitting the target, whether human or concrete, unlike the regular full-metal jacket that pierces the body through and through, De Guzman said.

Castro said they would invite film director Willy Milan, who was with Kintanar when he was shot, and Kintanar's widow to shed more light on the case.

Interviewed early yesterday at the wake, Joy Asuncion said her family would "fully cooperate with agencies investigating the case" after the burial.

Mastermind

In Cebu City, Pastor Alcover Jr., also a former NPA member, said a friend in the underground movement had identified Leo Velasco as the leader of the team that killed Kintanar.

Alcover, now chair of the anti-communist group National Alliance for Democracy, said the team had five members, one of them a certain Philip, who was carrying out Sison's supposed orders to liquidate Kintanar.

He said in an interview over radio station dyLA that he personally knew Velasco, who was considered a "big fish" in the CPP/NPA and was one of the pioneering hit men of the NPA.

Tabara identified Velasco's two companions as Philip Limjoco and Baltazar Bartolome, who, he said, were still active in the CPP/NPA and die-hard supporters of Sison.

He said he was familiar with these names because he was once part of the movement.

"Based on the information that we gathered, these people are NPA hit men, and we are in great belief that they are the ones who hit Rolly," Tabara told the Inquirer.

He said he hoped that the involvement of the CPP/NPA would be one of the angles being considered by police investigators.

"We were branded by Sison as traitors and agents of the government, and in our talks, we learned that we were included in the NPA's [order of battle]," he said.

The Revolutionary Proletarian Army/ABB has tightened security following the assassination of Kintanar.

Carapali Lualhalti, RPA-ABB national commander, said he, Tabara and Nilo de la Cruz had made "additional precautions" and taken "a defensive position." *With reports from Martin P. Marfil in Manila; Jhunnex Napallacan, Kathy I. Navarro and Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

FOUR DIGIT
3 8 6 6
(In exact order)
SUERTRES
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MEGALOTTO 6/45
3 7 17 27 29 40

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SPORTS
Editor Al S. Mendoza ● Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

LG table tennis begins in Davao

THE FIRST leg of the LG Regional Junior Table Tennis Circuit unfurls today at the Victoria Plaza in Davao City with more than 100 paddle-wielders from Mindanao seeing action. Table Tennis Association of the Philippines led by its president Victor Valbuena are there to oversee the tournament.

FIRST GRAND SLAM FINAL

German's ruthlessness downs Roddick

MELBOURNE—Rainer Schuettler squeezed every last drop of energy and fight out of Andy Roddick on Friday to reach his first Grand Slam final at the Australian Open with a 7-5, 2-6, 6-3, 6-3 victory.

The 26-year-old employed ruthless tactics to smother Roddick's hopes and become only the second German, behind Boris Becker, to reach the men's final here in the event's 98-year history.

For Roddick, it was a cruel exit from a tournament in which he had burst through barriers and set new marks for courage and determination.

Before this event he had never come back from two sets down to win a match. In Melbourne he managed it twice. On the second occasion he saved a match point and twice came from a set down to beat Younes El Aynaoui, 4-6, 7-6, 4-6, 6-4, 21-19.

It was a match which lasted a minute short of five hours and featured the longest fifth set in grand slam history. It put Roddick and El Aynaoui in the record books but ultimately destroyed the American's chances of reaching a first grand slam final.

Schuettler will play Andre Agassi in Sunday's final. The American second seed is chasing a fourth Open crown, a record for an overseas player..

"Right now, I'm speechless, it's unbelievable," said the 26-year-old Schuettler moments after clinching match point.

"It was a dream to have a chance to play in the final and sometimes you have the chance to realize the dream. I am looking forward to playing Andre in the final," he said. "It's great to be in the final and I will give my best and see what happens."

Schuettler enjoyed the benefit of an extensive five-week off-season training program before coming to Australia and his fitness and court speed were deciding factors against Roddick. *AFP, Reuters*

SCHUETTLER reaps benefit of five-week training program. AFP

UST netters defeat UE, 2-1; La Salle up

DEFENDING champion University of Santo Tomas fortified its title-retention bid with a 2-1 victory over University of the East on Sunday in the UAAP tennis tournament at the Rizal Sports Center outdoor courts in Pasig City.

Pius Ocampo demolished Teddy Danao, 6-0, 6-0, in the first singles while Art Thomas Calingasan and Maclean Barraquias assured the win after taking the doubles over Peter Perpetua and Jerry Bernabe, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2.

The La Salle Green Netters of Roland Kraut also boosted their own title campaign, beating University of the Philippines, 2-1, to finish the two-round elimination with a 6-2, win-loss record.

Yannick Guba saved the day for La Salle with a 6-1, 6-0 victory over Nathaniel Guadayo in the deciding second singles.

The Green Netters, champions in 1995, won the first singles, courtesy of Nico Faller over Alex Borela, 6-0, 7-5, but the Fighting Maroons tied the score at 1-1 when Jericho Sison and James Soldivillo defeated Andre Cruz and Dino Almario, 3-6, 7-6 (4), 6-2, in the doubles.

Lakay Nalangto (For BMS)

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

A CALLER claiming to be a descendant of Ubing Nagango said Lakay Nalangto ought to be also featured here.

"Lakay Nalangto came much ahead of Ubing Nagango," the caller said. "In his time, Ubing Nagango's exploits would pale in comparison to Lakay Nalangto's greatness."

I wrote here a while back that Ubing Nagango, known by his initials as U.N., was one of the "all-time" greats from a barrio called Tukok Barikir in Mangatarem, Pangasinan.

"For starters, what was Lakay Nalangto's nickname?"

"Laki," said the caller. "Make that L-a-k-i, Laki. I am proud of my great-great-great-great-great-great-great grandfather U.N. But let's give credit where credit is due. Laki was as great a man like Grandpa U.N. if not greater than Grandpa U.N."

According to the caller, legend has it that Laki reached the ripe age of 129. He died only because he decided to die. But that's getting ahead of the story.

At 69, Laki won his 39th straight singles tennis title.

"Laki picked up the game late?"

"Not really," said the caller. "He started playing tennis at age 19. At 20, he was beating everybody. At 21, nobody wanted to play tennis with him anymore. He retired."

"What did he do after that?

"He went to politics," the caller said. "And because he sang like Julio Iglesias and delivered speeches a la Joe de Venecia, he became an unbeaten mayor for nine years."

At 30, nobody dared challenge him for the mayoralty post. He quit politics.

"What did he do after that?"

"He went back to tennis," the caller said. "A bunch of new talents cropped up during his absence–but he wiped them all in no time. Thus, his 39 straight championships."

When he retired a second time from tennis at 69 for lack of opponents, he spent the next 60 years at his mango farm. And for exercise, he swam at the Borobor River everyday of his life, rain or shine. That was the same river where Ubing Nagango drew his strength by also taking a bath there everyday.

"And how did Laki die?"

"Well, while Ubing Nagango was unmarried," said the caller, "Laki was married 19 times."

"What's that got to do with his death?" I said.

"Well, when Laki turned 129 and was spurned by a 16-year-old – five years after his 19th wife had died–he said it was time to go."

What did he do?

"He went to sleep on a moonlit night. Never woke up again."

"That's it?"

"Yeah," the caller said. "That's all there is to the Laki legend. As you said, 'all time' is a long time."

Ateneo-Masbate for Luzon crown

IT'S NCR (Ateneo de Manila University High) against Masbate (Masbate National Comprehensive High) for the Luzon crown of the Coke Go-for-Goal under 16 football tournament at 9:30 a.m. today at the Philsports Arena field in Pasig City. The Ateneans rode on Gerard Cancio's two-goal performance to blank Baguio's Pines City High, 3-0, while Masbate banked on Renante Ursal's hat-trick to crush Laguna's Pedro Guevarra Memorial National High School, 5-0, in yesterday's semifinal matches. NCR and Masbate also clinched the two remaining slots in the national finals set Feb. 9-13 in Dumaguete City.

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Baguio seeks sweep

BAGUIO CITY—Host Baguio Country Club looked poised to sweep all three divisions anew in today's final round of the 28th Baguio Ladies Interclub Invitational golf tournament.

BCC dominated the field in the Class A division after amassing a two-round total of 262 points through Beth Dixon, Norma Lawrence, Sonia Bruce and Carla Navarette.

Dixon sizzled with 38 points, Lawrence and Bruce carded 34s while Navarette contributed 33 as they piled up 139 points to overshadow Villamor's 133.

In Class B, BCC's Nancy Tichacek, Liza Rondez, Nellie Kramer and Lawrence pooled 271 points against Aguinaldo and Wack-Wack's 223.

Biggest PAL Interclub with record 77 teams

VIRTUALLY the country's entire golfing fraternity will converge on Southern Mindanao when the Philippine Airlines Interclub stages its annual championships in Davao City next month.

The 56th edition of the regular Men's Interclub, universally acknowledged as the national golf team championship, will be played from Feb. 26 to March 1.

Preceding it will be the 17th staging of the Seniors Interclub, a companied tournament for the club's senior players, from Feb. 21 to 23.

A record number of teams–77 Men's and 68 Seniors–will see action in the week-long tournament. This is the largest field in the history of the PAL Interclub, surpassing the previous high of 70 Men's and 58 Seniors teams registered last year in Bacolod.

The roster includes 39 foreign teams, also the most ever. Teams from Bangkok, Dhahran, Guam, Hong Kong, Houston, Taipei and Yokohama will be making their debut.

The Men's tournament will jointly be played at many-time Interclub host Apo Golf and Country Club and at the new links of Rancho Palos Verdes Golf and Country Club in Davao's rolling Buhagin district.

The Seniors event will take place at another familiar layout, Lanang Country Club, and again at Rancho Palos Verdes.

The 56th PAL Interclub is backed by major sponsors Airbus, ABS-CBN International, Air Philippines, Fortune Tobacco, 105.1 Crossover, MTV Philippines, Joey 92.3, PLDT, Premiere Wines and Spirits, Radio Mindanao Network, Royal Caribbean International and UMBN/Mindanao Times.

The corporate sponsors are Apo View Hotel, Taylor Made adidas and 96.3 W-Rock, while the minor sponsors are Asia Brewery and Southern Philippines.

The Marco Polo Davao is the official hotel of the tournament.

"The record field of top-caliber players, combined with the expected fine weather and superb condition of the courses, should produce some exceptional golf," said PAL senior assistant vice president Domingo T. Duerme, chair of the Interclub.

NORTHWEST AIRLINES
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HOLE-IN-ONE SPONSORS
Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club has made Northwest Airlines and Royal Caribbean International its year-round hole-in-one sponsors for 2003. Southwoods sports and games chair Freddie Mendoza (extreme right) and golf director Jeric Hechanova (extreme left) are shown shaking hands with Northwest Airlines general manager for Philippines Rafael Nishihira and Baron Travel president Marilen Sandejas-Yaptangco representing Royal Caribbean International.

Lina wants tall players

BASKETBALL patron Bert Lina's dream of seeing tall Filipino point guards is shaping up.

Since last week, young players who are at least six feet tall have been flocking to the Rizal Memorial Coliseum to try out for slots in the Bert Lina Six Foot Junior Basketball Cup and the national training pool.

Lina, chair of FedEx and the Basketball Association of the Philippines vice president for Luzon, organized the tournament set to start on Feb. 10.

"This has been a dream of mine-to be able to produce a 6-foot-5 guard, who can shift to the no. 2, 3, 4 and 5 spots with relative ease. This prototype of a player will be our ultimate weapon in our quest for Asian basketball supremacy," said Lina.

Lina yesterday enjoined the regional directors of the BAP to intensify their search for six footers who are 18 years and below.

The BAP regional directors are Lito Alvarez (NCR), Luis Samson Jr. (Region I), Marius de Guzman (II), Rafael Angeles (III), Johnny Tam (IV), Julian Lavadia Jr. (V), Emmanuel Yap (VI), lawyer Dodong Aquino (VII), Dr. Lucresio Calo (VIII), Jose Bernad Jr. (IX), Rico Medina Jr. (X), Regino Cua (XI), Miguel Jacalan (XII), lawyer Edgar Avila (CAR) and Douglas Mosquito Sr. (Caraga).

They can be contacted through the BAP Manila office at tel. 524-2522.

Interested players can contact Coach Ching Ching Marcelino at tel. 861-4092 or through Steven of FedEx at 0917-8376976. They can also come to the Rizal Memorial Coliseum from 6-8 p.m. daily and look for Marcelino.

Teams from the PBA, namely Coca-Cola, Ginebra, Talk N Text, Sta. Lucia Realty, Shell and FedEx have already adopted all the six teams entered in the tournament. *Roy Luarca*

PBA PRE-SEASON
GAME TODAY *(Tarlac State University)*
5:30 p.m.—Shell vs Ginebra

Welcoat eyes 2-0 lead over Dazz

GAMES TODAY *(La Salle Sentrum, Lipa City)*
1:30 p.m.—Blu vs LBC-Batangas (for 3rd)
4:00 p.m.—Dazz vs Welcoat (championship)
GAME ONE (best-of-5)
Welcoat 77 Dazz 68 OT

By Dennis U. Eroa

WELCOAT eyes a successful follow-up to its huge Game One win as it tackles Dazz anew today in their best-of-five title series for the PBL Challenge Cup at the La Salle Sentrum in Lipa City.

"Series over if we don't equalize," said Dazz mentor Junel Baculi, whose charges blew an 18-point third quarter lead to lose, 77-68, in overtime last Thursday in Lucena City.

Baculi is hopeful that his charges have already learned their lessons well after that Game One embarrassment. But to put the series back to square one, the Sparklers need to play under tremendous pressure.

Upon consultation with team officials, PBL Commissioner Chino Trinidad announced that Welcoat starting playmaker Eugene Tan will be allowed to play after getting thrown out of the game for punching Marc Pingris, who taunted him after a slam dunk in the fourth half.

Trinidad, however, leveled Tan a P10,000 fine, which is the biggest since he became commissioner two years ago.

"The fine will be given to charity," said Trinidad. Trinidad's move was supported by Cecilio Pedro and Raymund Yu, owners of Dazz and Welcoat, respectively.

Jaded observers agree that sans Tan, Dazz will be at tremendous disadvantage against Welcoat. "We want to assure a balanced series for the benefit of the fans. I, however, would like to warn our protagonists that I can no longer tolerate any infraction of PBL rules," Trinidad told the INQUIRER.

Asian trackfest launching

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PHILIPPINE Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain is set to lead on Monday the launching of the 15th Asian track and field championships which the country will host for the first time in 10 years.

Buhain, who has been very supportive of the Asian trackfest hosting, will address fellow sports officials, athletes and guests in the conference to be held at the Tiara Hotel in Makati.

A thousand athletes and officials from 44 countries are expected to take part in the meet slated Sept. 18-23.

Buhain, who is himself an accomplished athlete, is expected to outline the PSC's own preparation which includes the improvements to be done on the Rizal Memorial track stadium.

PSC officials have earlier estimated the repairs to cost P30 million which they said are justifiable because they will also be used when the country hosts the 2005 Southeast Asian Games.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, who also confirmed his attendance in the launching, has thrown in his support to the meet.which the city hosted in 1993.

Atienza is expected to hand over the key to the visiting delegates that include the world superpowers in athletics.

To ensure that the best athletes in the region will take part, the Asian track body mandated them to see action in Manila or be disqualified in the dollar-rich Asian Grand Prix, whose fourth and final leg will be staged in the country this year.

Buhain calls for early SEAG training

THE PHILIPPINE Sports Commission has appealed to national sports associations to start their preparation for the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games as soon as possible.

PSC chair Eric Buhain stressed the need for a long preparation especially because the country has to win at least 40 gold medals to capture the third place in the event slated on Dec. 5-15.

"We should at least rank third in the Vietnam SEA Games to at least carry high morale and gain momentum going to the Philippine SEA Games two years later," said Buhain.

Buhain said the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office are ready to bankroll the training, international exposure and purchase of equipment of the estimated 400 athletes who will be sent to Vietnam.

"We just might secure a partnership with some of the country's top private corporations just like what happened during the Asiad campaign last year," said Buhain, referring to the support given by electronics giant Samsung Philippines. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

EUGENE Tan (in white jersey) grapples for ball possession. PDI PHOTO

Kings, Mavs prevail

MEMPHIS, Tennessee—Chris Webber had 26 points and Yugoslav Peja Stojakovic added 22 as the Sacramento Kings rallied in the fourth quarter to defeat the Memphis Grizzlies, 104-98, Thursday and complete a sweep of the four-game season series.

Memphis took a 97-96 lead on Jason Williams's 3-pointer with 1:14 left, but the Kings scored eight straight points and the Grizzlies never recovered.

The Kings also got 18 points from Mike Bibby and 13 from Vlade Divac.

Memphis was led by Pau Gasol's 24 points and 17 rebounds. Lorenzen Wright had 17 points, while Gordan Giricek added 16.

Mavericks 107, 76ers 94

In Philadelphia, Dirk Nowitzki had 30 points and 14 rebounds, and Steve Nash added 21 points and 13 assists in Dallas' win over Philadelphia.

Michael Finley scored 19 and Nick Van Exel added 16 for the Mavericks, who improved the NBA's best record to 33-8 with their second straight win after a dismal West Coast trip on which they lost three in a row.

COMPLETE RESULTS
Dallas 107, Philadelphia 94; Sacramento 104, Memphis 98; Golden State 105, New Jersey 97. *AFP*

Santa Ana Park lines up 26 weekend races

PHILIPPINE Racing Club Inc. (PRCI) winds up its five-day racing schedule with a weekend card of 26 races spiced up by six guaranteed money Philracom-PRCI New Year's Specials featuring some of the country's leading gallopers at the Santa Ana Park.

Three Special Races with a guaranteed P160,000 winner's purse headline today's 13-race program.

Said races are being co-sponsored by the Philippine Racing Commission and the PRCI.

"We would like to acknowledge the valuable support being extended by the Philracom to ensure the high quality of our races at the Santa Ana Park," said PRCI EVP and COO Ramon Ereneta, Jr.

The three Philracom-PRCI New Year's Special Races for today are scheduled to flag off as races 3, 8 and 10 and would be similarly run over a distance of 1,500 meters.

Four-year-old chestnut colt Duces Tecum looms as the early favorite in the first of the three special races, coming off a close second place finish to Queen Matawe in a recent Class Division race. Expected to provide a big challenge for the top are recent winner Tochinic and consistent performer Summit Power. Others in the hunt include Rikitik, Bull Horn and Queen Storm.

Meanwhile, nine (9) foreign-bred gallopers are scheduled to clash in the second featured special race. Led by the steadily improving Renowned (Aus), the most seasoned and the only non-maiden entry in the field, the race will showcase a number of upcoming imports that include Roxburry Las (Aus), Scenic Splendor (Aus), Coromell (Aus) and Covert Lady (Aus). Also in the chase are Revolting (Aus), Dancer's Bid (NZ), Eislet Sur Mer (Aus) and Rosekaape (Aus).

Finally, in the third and final special race for the day, recent winner Juan Marco tests his mettle against a crack field of challengers that include noted sprinters Eyewitness, Rama and Rosa Valentina, as well as, the in-form Prince of Africa and Aya's Star.

Eight (8) Class Division, a Maiden A and an Allowance A race have also been lined up for the day's card which starts promptly at 1:30 p.m.

PSHS forms chess club

THE PHILIPPINE Science High School (PSHS) in Diliman, Quezon City does not have a chess varsity team, but a growing interest in chess among its students led to the formation of a new chess club in the school.

PSHS director Rafael Saldaña said sports, especially chess, help round off the learning potentials of students. "We want to promote sports to develop students holistically," said Saldaña. "In chess, one develops analytic thinking which a student can certainly use in his field.

The chess tournament, being organized by the Active Chess Center of Asia (ACCA), is part of a science and math festival week set for Feb. 3-9, at the Diliman Main Campus. Grandmaster Eugene Torre will hold a half-day clinic from 1-5 p.m. for PSHS students and principals, P.E. coordinators, and team captains of participating schools of the tournament on Feb. 6.

For information about the PSHS events, send e-mail to pshsmain@yahoo.com. For the tournament, contact the ACCA at tel. nos. 892-8759/892-9091.

Wang's rules Picaa tourney

WANG'S Ballclub is this year's PICAA-YKL Cup champion.

Owned and managed by businessman-sportsman Alex Wang and handled by coach Jerome Cueto, Wang's outduelled Spring Cooking Oil, 81-71, to capture the title in this prestigious tournament organized by the Philippine Integrated Chinese Athletic Association (PICAA) and sanctioned by the Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP).

Six mainstays, led by Jerwin Gaco and Rafhael Santos, scored in double figures for Wang's Ballclub, which battled back from a couple of 12-point deficits early in the third quarter to wrap up the win.

The 6-3 Gaco, who was later voted as most valuable player of the tournament, scattered a game-high 20 points for Wang's Ballclub, while Santos added 13 and Chris de Jesus contributed 12.

Three other players–Billy Moody, Jomar Tierra and Randy Lopez–added 10 points apiece.

"We're very, very happy to win the first title in local basketball this year," said Wang, who received the championship trophy from PICAA officials Christian Tan, Tony Fabico and Tony Yap.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1993, Mike Potenciano clocked 1 minute, 48 seconds to retain his crown in the Shell Autocross Challenge 4-wheel drive at the CCP reclamation. Also today in 1994, Ronaldo Abilla notched 50 points to bag individual honors and power Makati South I to the team championship in the 8th Rotary Golf fellowship in Bacolod City.

Jam sportsfest set tomorrow

AROUND 400 athletes from eight Jesuit schools all over the country will vie for honors in the sixth JAM (Jesuits Athletic Meet) sportsfest which reels off at 7:30 a.m. tomorrow at the Ateneo de Manila high school covered courts in Quezon City.

The competing teams are Ateneo de Davao, Ateneo de Zamboanga, Xavier University (Cagayan de Oro City), Ateneo de Naga, Sta. Maria Catholic School (Iloilo), Sacred Heart for Boys (Cebu), Xavier School (Greenhills, San Juan) and host Ateneo de Manila.

Competition will be conducted in basketball, 7-a-side football, table tennis and chess in the high school division and basketball in the grade school level, according to Fr. Raymond Holscher, JAM founder and tournament coordinator.

Basketball action will start shortly after the 7 a.m. Mass at the Ateneo High School chapel.

The Xavier Stallions, led by team captain Paul Chua, are the defending high school champions.

Batang Red Bull players, bannered by PSA basketball players of the year Willie Miller and Enrico Villanueva, will be guests of honor during the opening ceremony.

Miller, named MVP by the Philippine Basketball Association, and Villanueva, the UAAP MVP for his key role in Ateneo's title conquest, were among the top athletes honored by the Philippine Sportswriters Association during its annual Awards Night last Jan. 10 at Holiday Inn Manila.

Holscher expects this year's JAM to be more exciting because of the rigid and long preparation by athletes from the eight competing schools.

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Pucay first back-to-back winner in Gentleman's Circuit

CAGAYAN DE ORO—Mars Pucay did an Ernie Els yesterday, winning his first two events in 2003 with a two-stroke victory in the FirstGentleman's Professional Golf Circuit here.

The victory, fashioned out at Pueblo de Oro, made the Mizuno pro the first back-to-back champion in the Tour presented by San Miguel Beer.

Pucay did it almost effortlessly as nobody played well enough to make it a rough day for the new Order of Merit leader.

Pucay, birdieless, closed out with a 2-over-par 74 and still won with ease as Cassius Casas and Mario Siodina made big slips.

Casas, getting the runner-up prize for the second straight week and behind the same player, was the first to fall.

Casas saw the ravine on No. 4 after he babied a 7-iron tee-shot for a double-bogey.

PUCAY

Casas salvaged a share of second place with Richard Sinfuego by sinking near-impossible putts with the sharpest slants - an 18-footer on the 15th and a mind-boggling 65-footer on the 17th. Those long putts gave him a 72 for a 285 like Sinfuego against the 283 of Pucay.

Steady play failed to win it for Sinfuego (72-71-72-70) who was just one of two players who broke par on a day when the pin placements baffled the field no end.

Rey Pagunsan wound up fourth at 286 after a 72 while Mario Siodina, the 54-year-old who gave the young guns a big scare until the very end, saw his determined bid derailed by a string of three bogeys from the ninth and wound up fifth.

Jungolf school season series fires off tomorrow

LOCAL jungolfers will get themselves warmed up for a long and busy summer with a series of school season events mapped out by new Jungolf president Gerry Handog starting tomorrow (Sunday, Jan. 26) at the Villamor Golf Club course.

Handog said that tomorrow's event graciously hosted by the Villamor Golf Council through general manager Gen. Bert Sabularse (ret.) will kick off several Sundays-only tournament designed to get the jungolfers ready for their summer campaign.

Only those playing in the Class A (15-17 years division), Class B (13-14 years) and Class C (11-12) will be playing tomorrow.

On Feb. 2, it will be the turn of those in Class D (9-10) and Class E (8 under) to play at the executive course of the Riviera Golf and Country Club with Junior World champion Dottie Ardina leading the field.

The tourney will also serve as the tuneup for members of the country's team to the Asian qualifying for the Junior World Masters in Thailand next month.

Bill Shaw Golf Jan. 31

SCRAMBLE in the east course and aggregate in the west side will be the modes of play for the 14th annual Bill Shaw Memorial Golf Classic, the member-guest invitational of the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club, on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1.

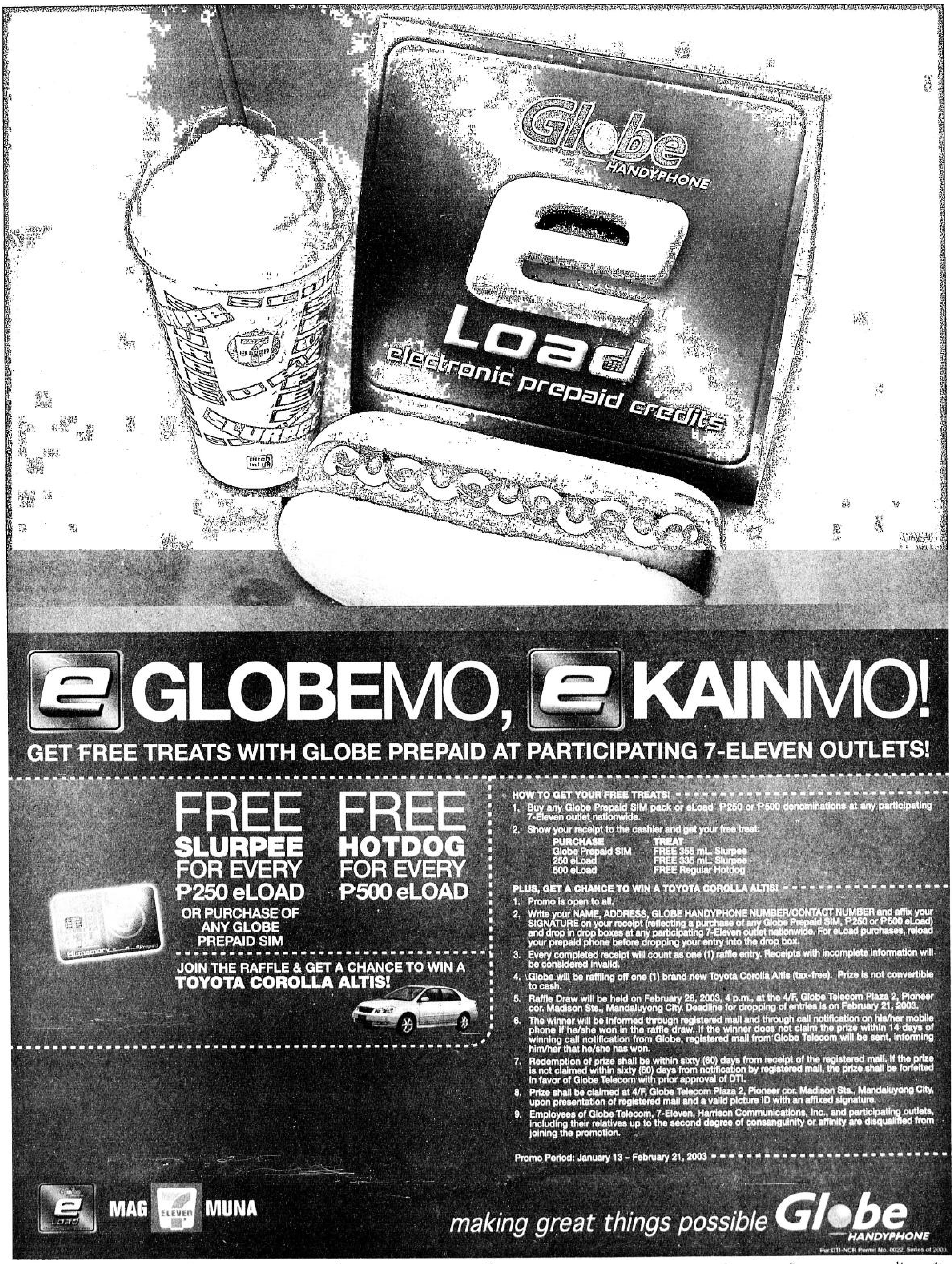
The different formats will make consistency the main requirement for both member and his guest partner in the 36-hole battle for the overall title and three handicap classifications.

Samsung is the presenting sponsor of this year's Bill Shaw Memorial, which will feature 200 teams, together with Golforce, Custom Clubmakers and Unilever Philippines.

Hole-in-one sponsors are Toyota Otis, Mitsubishi Motors Phils., Kart Plaza, Kymco and Bulgari watches. Hole sponsors are Pacific Paint & Oil Mfg., Citra Metro Tollways, Synergymed, PLDT, PCSO, Beauty Exponents, PICP, Gema Coco Food Corp., Matsushita Phils., GG&A Clubshares, Atty. Gilberto Duavit, Pascual Lab (Mod-World), Standard Chartered Bank, Del Monte, GNC, Gatorade, Pacsports, Forest Hills, Air Philippines, Discovery Suites, the South Spa, Nestle Philippines and the Plaza.

Tonichi Tuason, chair of the Bill Shaw committee announced a bounty of exciting prizes totaling more than P2 million that will be given away to tournament and raffle winners.

"It will definitely be one of the biggest Bill Shaw Memorial events in recent years," said Tuason.



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4. Globe will be raffling off one (1) brand new Toyota Corolla Altis (tax-free). Prize is not convertible to cash.
5. Raffle Draw will be held on February 28, 2003, 4 p.m., at the 4/F, Globe Telecom Plaza 2, Pioneer cor. Madison Sts., Mandaluyong City. Deadline for dropping of entries is on February 21, 2003.
6. The winner will be informed through registered mail and through call notification on his/her mobile phone if he/she won in the raffle draw. If the winner does not claim the prize within 14 days of winning call notification from Globe, registered mail from Globe Telecom will be sent, informing him/her that he/she has won.
7. Redemption of prize shall be within sixty (60) days from receipt of the registered mail. If the prize is not claimed within sixty (60) days from notification by registered mail, the prize shall be forfeited in favor of Globe Telecom with prior approval of DTI.
8. Prize shall be claimed at 4/F, Globe Telecom Plaza 2, Pioneer cor. Madison Sts., Mandaluyong City, upon presentation of registered mail and a valid picture ID with an affixed signature.
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Editor Louie C. Camino

Palawan hunt for slay suspect

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation is concentrating on Palawan in its search for the primary suspect in the killing of top Ateneo law graduate Jose Ramon Llamas. NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said yesterday agents are concentrating on Batarasa and another Muslim community in Palawan to look for alleged gunman Bashir M. Abdulrahman. He said relatives of suspect-turned-state witness Cola M. Didato are also helping in the hunt. *Philip Tubeza*

Poisoned city air killing jeep drivers

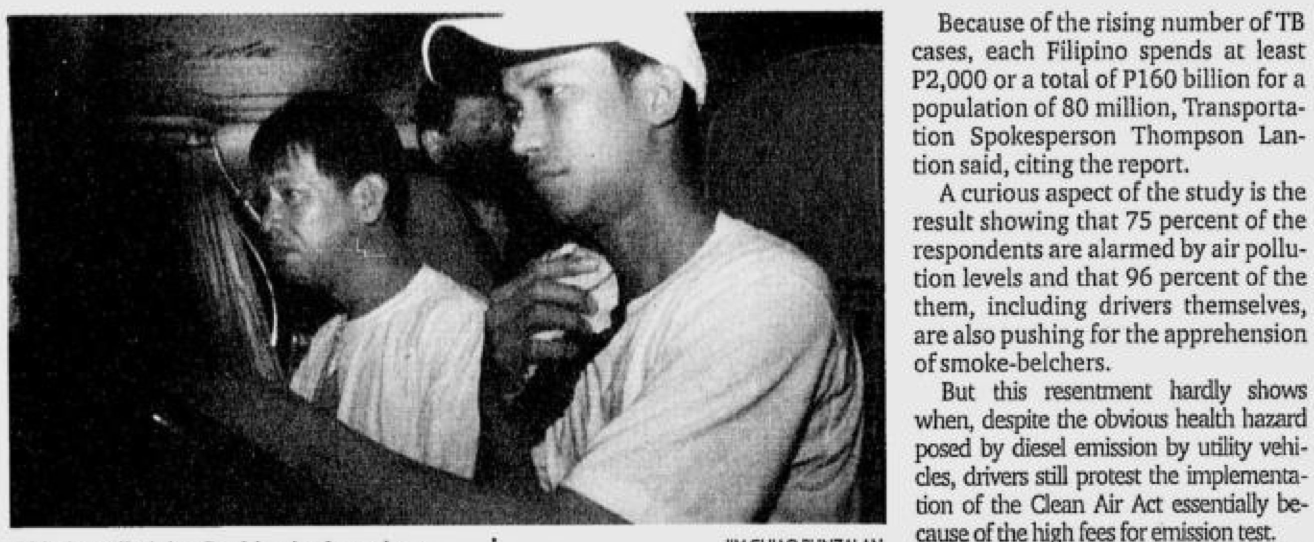
By Christian V. Esguerra

JEEPNEY drivers have no reason not to support the Clean Air Act. If they don't, the poisoned air out in the city streets where they wrestle endlessly for a living would slowly kill them.

Citing a World Bank environment report for 2002, Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza said Thursday that jeepney drivers are in fact the primary victims of the deadly pulmonary tuberculosis disease.

Of the total number of TB victims included in the report, chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases appeared most prevalent at 32.5 percent among jeepney drivers.

Bus drivers, despite staying most of the time inside their air-conditioned vehicles, came in second at 16.4 percent, while commuters where third at 14.8 percent, according to the World Bank report which was based on a study conducted by the U.P. College of Public Health.



ALL day, all night: Sucking in the poison

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Respondents afflicted with pulmonary TB, the worst stage of the pulmonary disease, were also mostly jeepney drivers (17.5 percent), Mendoza said.

The study involved jeepney drivers who had worked for an average of 14.5 year, air-conditioned bus drivers for 10 years, and commuters for 8.6 years.

Mendoza said the World Bank report should not be taken lightly, noting that one out of four Filipinos or roughly 22 million people are exposed to tuberculosis.

About 740 Filipinos are afflicted daily with TB while roughly 68 people die of the disease at the same rate, the study showed.

Because of the rising number of TB cases, each Filipino spends at least P2,000 or a total of P160 billion for a population of 80 million, Transportation Spokesperson Thompson Lantion said, citing the report.

A curious aspect of the study is the result showing that 75 percent of the respondents are alarmed by air pollution levels and that 96 percent of the them, including drivers themselves, are also pushing for the apprehension of smoke-belchers.

But this resentment hardly shows when, despite the obvious health hazard posed by diesel emission by utility vehicles, drivers still protest the implementation of the Clean Air Act essentially because of the high fees for emission test.

Tricycle drivers reject the Act particularly because it would phase out motorcycles with two-stroke engines.

The Land Transportation Office had already addressed the emission fee problem by charging public utility vehicles only P90 instead of the regular P300 rate collected by private testing centers.

Will Interior Secretary Joey Lina or the Calamba mayor answer their prayers?

By Leila B. Salaverria

THEY continue to live in fear and uncertainty.

This led informal settlers in a Laguna barangay to decry efforts to drive them away from a piece of untitled land they have called home for 10 or more years.

The residents, of Purok 5, Barangay San Cristobal, Calamba, Laguna also lamented the authorities' silence about their plight.

All they want is someone to talk with them and explain what would be their fate, said 38-year-old Catherine Cariaga, who has been living in Purok 5 for 10 years. But instead of an explanation, five of her neighbors' homes were demolished in November last year, and a wall is now being constructed around the whole community.

Tension is mounting between the residents and the foreman who supervises the wall's construction, she said.

According to Cariaga, the residents are mystified as to why they are being driven out of the land when that area, which is beside a river and is under the bridge along the National Highway, is untitled. She said a businessman has claimed to have ownership of the land, a claim which she finds hard to believe.

"We are practically living in the river. How can a title be issued for this piece of land?" she asked.

According to Cariaga, the businessman was behind the demolitions and the wall's construction.

The residents have asked for help from Calamba Mayor Severino Lajara last year when some of the houses had been demolished.

Cariaga said Lajara had written to Barangay Captain Narciso Tangcangco ordering him to help the residents of Purok 5.

That was weeks ago. Up to now, no help or information has come their way, said Cariaga.

In the meantime, she and her neighbors live with apprehension and uncertainty.

They fear their homes would be suddenly demolished any day now.

Diana Zubiri is no longer an anomaly

ZUBIRI

By Nelson Flores

SHE was labeled an anomaly in Mandaluyong City.

Yesterday, Diana Zubiri, the sex star who had caused a traffic upheaval with her near-nude street pictorial has ceased to be that.

In fact, Mandaluyong City Mayor Benhur Abalos yesterday ordered the withdrawal of the criminal charges he had filed against Ms Zubiri and the editor of a popular men's magazine in connection to that scandalous photography session on the city's flyover three months ago.

The purpose of the law for punishing the offense has been met, Abalos explained.

The punitive elements of the law are never meant to be an instrument of vengeance but as a means to reform erring individuals, Abalos said.

He added:"I guess the experience has taught them that people should act responsibly, honor the agreement they conformed with and respect the law at all times." Zubiri had executed an affidavit admitting guilt.

After the pictorial Zubiri, her talent manager Jojo Gabinete, For Him Magazine Editor Enrique Ramos and photographer Xander Angeles were charged with grave scandal before the Mandaluyong City Prosecutors Office.

Zubiri had posed semi-nude on west bound lane of the Mandaluyong-Shaw Boulevard flyover last Oct. 29.

The street event caused a monstrous traffic jam in the area.

"I allowed them to shoot inasmuch as the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority already gave them permission to shoot but I gave instructions that she would pose only in short or long pants," Abalos said.

Zubiri posed in a disturbing two-piece bikini, thereby aggravating traffic congestion in the area.

In a joint affidavit of undertaking, Zubiri and Gabinete apologized for the incident.

"While we committed the act in the pursuit of our profession as actress and talent manager respectively, we do not recommend the same as a good example to the youth...we promise to be more responsible in the future," they said in a joint statement.

8 girls rescued from slave camp; 50 more left behind

By Tina Santos

THEY were forced to work like robots, with no day-off. They were fed spoiled food, and sometimes not fed at all.

Eight young female workers, including four minors, have been rescued by authorities who swooped down on a socks factory in Caloocan City on Thursday afternoon.

Northern Police District Office director Senior Supt. Marcelino Franco Jr. identified the victims as Divina Boider, 18; Janice Manabas, 20; Annabelle Anza, 20; and Helen Simbahun, 19; and four minors aged 14 to 17. All are natives of Bohol.

Franco said the rescue operation was made after they received information that Winter Enterprises, a socks factory owned by Chinese-Filipino trader Macario Co and his sister Lina, on J. Rodriguez Street, 10th Avenue, have allegedly been employing and maltreating workers including several minors.

One of the victims exposed their ordeal after she managed to send a letter to her parents who in turn sought the assistance of the police.

Franco said they would dig deeper into the case and verify reports that, aside from employing minors recruited from different provinces like Bohol, the factory was also involved in manufacturing fake socks, particularly imitating Dunlop brand.

Franco said they would look into reports that Co, who was not around when the rescue operation was made, was allegedly operating illegally.

Franco's men barged into the establishment around 3:30 p.m. Thursday and rescued the victims. The NPDO chief clarified that only the eight victims were taken from the factory since their parents personally asked the assistance of the authorities.

Police said they are coordinating with other government agencies, specifically the court and the Department of Labor and Employment, to obtain court order to rescue the remaining 50 workers, mostly minors and believed to be working without the necessary permits.

According to the victims, they only received a meager salary of P1500 monthly with no day-off.

They were kept in a veritable slave camp where they were forced to work even on Sundays or holidays with no additional compensation.

The victims, who were placed under the care of the local social welfare department prior to their return to their province, said they were lured to work and promised a high salary plus free board and lodging.

"But what we had experienced was so terrible. We were forced to work like robots and even fed with spoiled foods and sometimes we're not feed at all," the victims said in Filipino.

They were allegedly being locked up in fully guarded premises and absolutely prohibited from going out.

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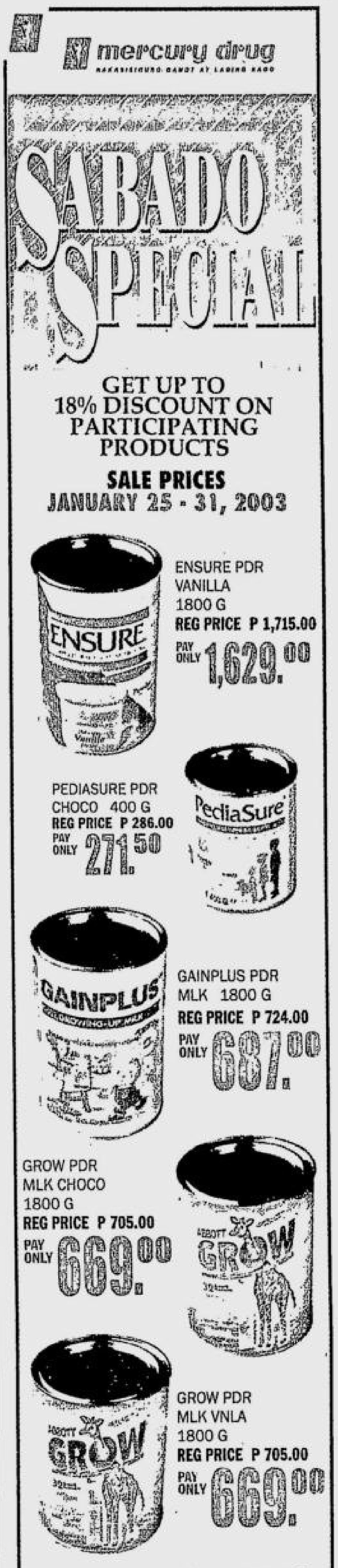

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8 LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
9 TRY SEVENTEEN
10 ANALYZE THAT

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3 LASTIKMAN
4 LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
5 8 MILE
6 TRY SEVENTEEN
7 LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
8 HOT CHICK
9 THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO
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12 HALF PAST DEAD

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2 RING (JAPANESE)
3 8 MILE
4 8 MILE
5 TRY SEVENTEEN
6 LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
7 LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO
9 THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
10 ANALYZE THAT
11 ONE HOUR PHOTO
12 HALF PAST DEAD

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1 HALF PAST DEAD
2 TRY SEVENTEEN
3 LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
4 8 MILE
5 RING (JAPANESE)
6 ANALYZE THAT
7 ONE HOUR PHOTO
8 THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
9 HOT CHICK
10 LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
11 LASTIKMAN
MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO

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1 HOT CHICK
2 RING (JAPANESE)
3 TRY SEVENTEEN
4 ANALYZE THAT
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6 THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
7 8 MILE
8 LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS

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2 LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
3 THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
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8 8 MILE
9 ONE HOUR PHOTO
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2 8 MILE
3 SWIMFAN
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5 KERIDA
6 HOT CHICK

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2 8 MILE
3 TRY SEVENTEEN
4 ANALYZE THAT

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2 LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
3 THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
4 MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO

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2 8 MILE
3 TRY SEVENTEEN
4 LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS

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5 BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF
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3 MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING
4 UNFAITHFUL CONCUVINE
5 DOUBLE SEDUCTION
6 KERIDA

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Maganto firm: Cardeño still in the country

By Christian V. Esguerra

CHIEF Supt. Romeo Maganto insisted yesterday that fugitive Supt. Rafael Cardeño is still hiding somewhere in the country.

"He's still here. I'm very, very sure," Maganto said in response to the claim of Cardeño lawyer Homobono Adaza that the high-profile fugitive could have already fled abroad.

Maganto did not elaborate but hinted that he and his men had already sighted Cardeño and fellow fugitive Santiago "Sonny" Camacho in one of their search operations.

Cardeño and Camacho have been eluding arrest since a Las Piñas judge ordered their capture for their alleged involvement in the Baron Cervantes murder. Cardeño was the alleged mastermind while Camacho was supposedly the one who had set up the killing in front of a drugstore in Las Piñas on Dec. 30, 2001.

Leonard de Vera, the Cervantes family lawyer, said yesterday that Adaza's claim could have been meant to mislead Maganto who was personally tapped by President Macapagal-Arroyo to hunt down the two fugitives.

If indeed Cardeño had already fled abroad, De Vera said the flight should have been monitored by the Immigration bureau. He noted that there is also a hold departure order for the police colonel and Camacho.

"There's really no way to check the veracity of Adaza's claim," the lawyer said. "What I know for sure is that Cardeño won't surrender until all witnesses against him have been eliminated."

De Vera was referring to Joseph Mostrales, the confessed gunman, and Erlindo Torres and Jaime Centeno.

Early in the murder trial, he said the prosecution already "lost" Mostrales when the ex-Marine sergeant denied a previous admission in a sworn statement that he was the gunman in the Cervantes slaying.

MAGANTO

Container van crushes 2 men

By Philip C. Tubeza

TWO men were crushed to death after the container van of a ten-wheeler truck collapsed on their car while they were crossing Del Pan Bridge in Manila Thursday night.

The victims were identified as driver Joselito de Leon, 29, of Block 11 Lot 16, Salmon St. Caloocan City and passenger Federico Cortez, 44, of 1516 F. Varona St. Tondo, Manila, said investigator SPO4 Reynante V. Talingdan, of the Western Police District-Traffic Management Bureau.

Suspect Noel Martinez, 22, of 197 Clara Dadis St., Obando, Bulacan, surrendered later to the police.

The accident happened at around 9 p.m. on the northbound lane of Del Pan Bridge.

Martinez was driving his ten-wheeler truck and was going up the bridge when the truck suddenly stopped, investigator Talingdan said.

The truck then moved downward, skidded, and climbed onto the sidewalk, Talingdan added.

Unfortunately, the container van tilted and fell smack on the victims' Anfra AUV (with plate number WHL-382).

De Leon and Cortez were crushed inside the Anfra. Rescuers arrived later and still tried to free the victims.

"It took the police some time before the bodies were extricated. But it was too late," said SPO4 Leopoldo de Vera, also of the traffic bureau.

The victims were brought to the Gat Andres Bonifacio Hospital where they were declared dead on arrival.

Martinez later surrendered to the police. Investigators were preparing two counts of reckless imprudence resulting in homicide against the suspect before the Manila Prosecutor's Office.

Atienza wants Families Meeting areas safe, clean

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza yesterday enjoined departments of the city government and the police to exert all efforts to ensure that the culminating events of the Fourth World Meeting of Families would be trouble-free.

"There have no been any problems in the past three days and I would like to keep it that way until Sunday. I want the surrounding areas for the culminating events secure and clean and order maintained at all times," Atienza directed city and police officials.

Atienza specifically directed the Western Police District to ensure the security in the areas where the culminating activities—the Festive meeting with Testimonies from Families to be held at Rizal Park starting 6 p.m. today Jan. 25 up to Closing Mass at 6 a.m. Sunday at the Quirino Grandstand—would be held.

"Make sure that there is sufficient police presence in the area to ensure the safety of the delegates and other participants," Atienza told Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong, Western Police District Director.

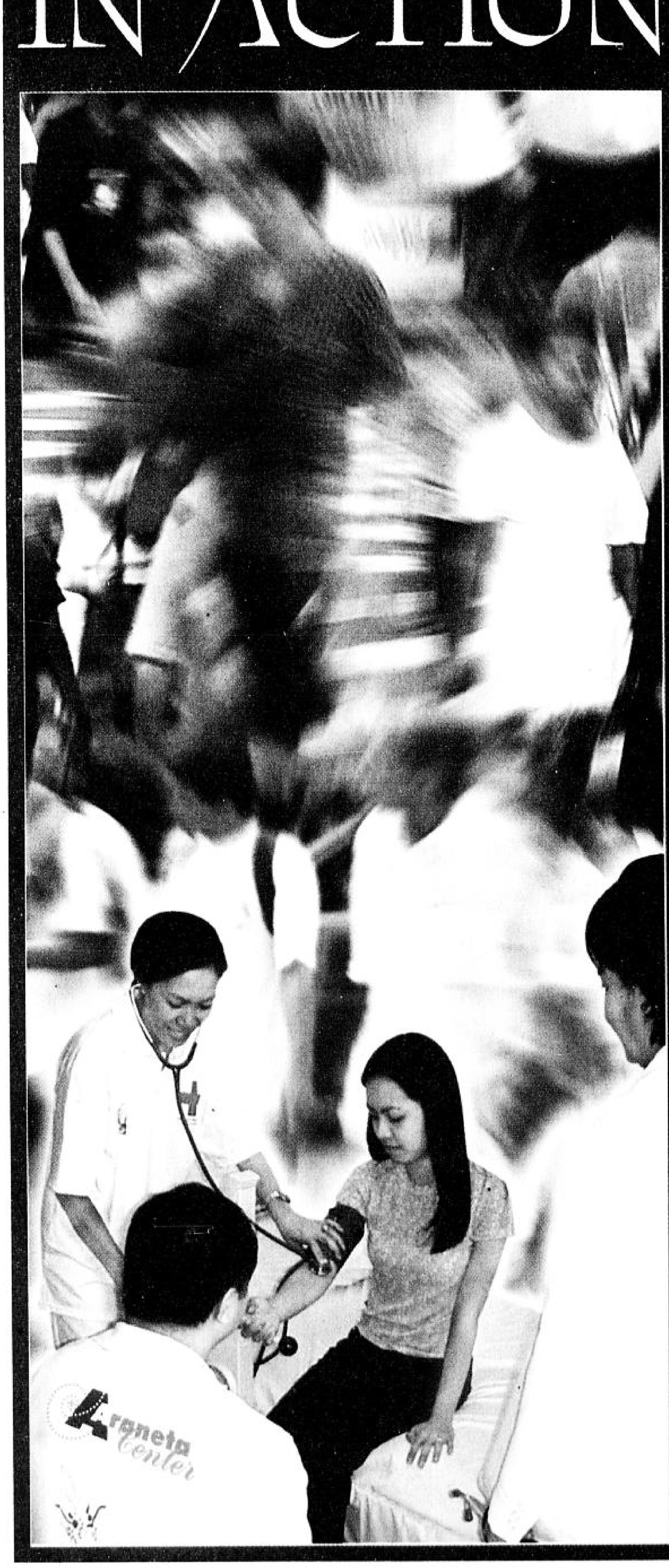
Some six hundred youth volunteers mobilized by the Manila Youth Bureau and the Manila Sports Council will also be deployed as marshals to help maintain order.

Atienza also directed the Department of Public Services and the city's garbage contractor to maintain cleanliness in the areas where the events would be held.

After the Closing development, the city government would be hosting a pilgrimage to the Holy Family Parish at Estrada St. in San Andres Bukid for some five hundred foreign and local delegates to the Fourth World Meeting of Families.

Atienza and other city officials will join Monsignor Robert Espenilla, parish priest of the Holy Family Parish, in welcoming the delegates.

A Eucharistic Celebration or Holy Mass will be held at 9 a.m., to be followed by cultural presentations by Pangkat Kawayan and the Bayanihan Dancers. The delegates will also be treated to a Barrio Fiesta lunch.



SELFLESS LOVE IN ACTION

Araneta Center fully supports the Fourth World Meeting of Families through the FIRST AID MEDICAL TASK FORCE, a mission that reaches out and shares to the larger body of the family at the Meeting of Families now being celebrated from January 22-26, 2003 in Manila. The Araneta Center also played official host to the 4th World Meeting of Families Chorale Competition in December 2002 at the Araneta Coliseum. The musical event was meant to spread the good message of the song "Only Selfless Love", the theme of the universal gathering of families. The management and staff of Araneta Center, hand in hand with the church and the community, join the entire nation in celebrating this significant Global Family Reunion.

4TH WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES
January 22-26, 2003
Manila Philippines

Kakampi ng Naaapi! Magbabalik na!

Woman killed by her rapist

MILAGROS Lua, 42, was shot to death when she tried to fight off her rapist in Caloocan City Thursday night.

SPO2 Antonio Paras said suspect Jalandoni Sultan, 45, a Muslim who lived in a rented room in Sitio Santa Rita, Barangay Tala, Caloocan, was apparently drunk when he barged into the house of his next door neighbor Lua, and began touching her private parts.

Lua, a native of Nueva Ecija, was then alone in the house. She attempted to fight off Sultan and began shouting for help at around 11 p.m.

Sultan then allegedly hit Lua with the gun before he allegedly shot her six times.

Witnesses told police they saw Sultan run out of the victim's house right after the gunshots.

When the neighbors checked on the victim, they were shocked to find her lifeless body on the floor. *Tina Santos*

Myracel Manuel

READERS have been inquiring about Myracel Manuel, the 24-year-old kidney patient who might soon lose her eyesight.

You can reach her at 913-0707 loc. 54 or (0916)388-8226.

Deadline for UP board

THE DEADLINE for nominations for the 23 members of the UP Alumni Association board of directors for the term 2003-2006 has been extended from Jan. 15 to Jan. 31, UPAA Committee on Elections Chairman Napoleon T. Vergara said yesterday.

Nominations may be made by any accredited UPAA college, school or institute alumni association, city/provincial, and foreign alumni association chapter duly endorsed by the chapter president or any duly authorized representative.

Any group of at least 23 alumni members in good standing from various groups in UP Diliman, UP Los Baños, UP Visayas and UP Mindanao may nominate their candidates.

Nominations forms are available at the UPAA Secretariat, Room 211, Ang Bahay ng Alumni, Magsaysay Avenue, UP Diliman, Quezon City. Only properly accomplished forms (to be submitted in three copies), together with three copies of the nominee's curriculum vitae and three passport-size photographs, will be accepted.

For details, please call the UPAA secretariat at 929-8327, 920-6871, 920-6875 or 920-6868. E-mail address is up.alum.assn@pacific.net.ph

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Parents are strongly warned against bringing children below 13. Some scenes can offend them
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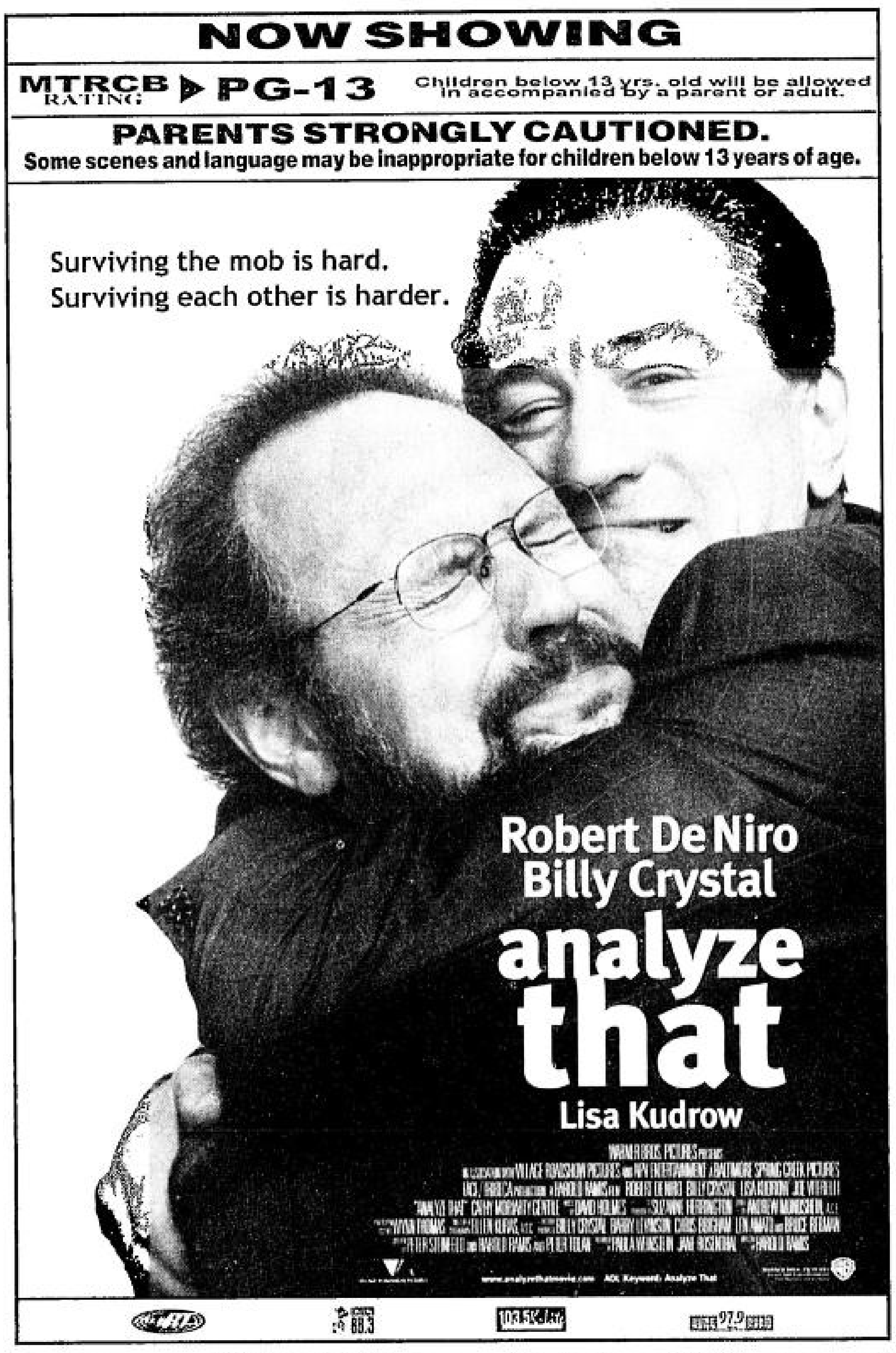
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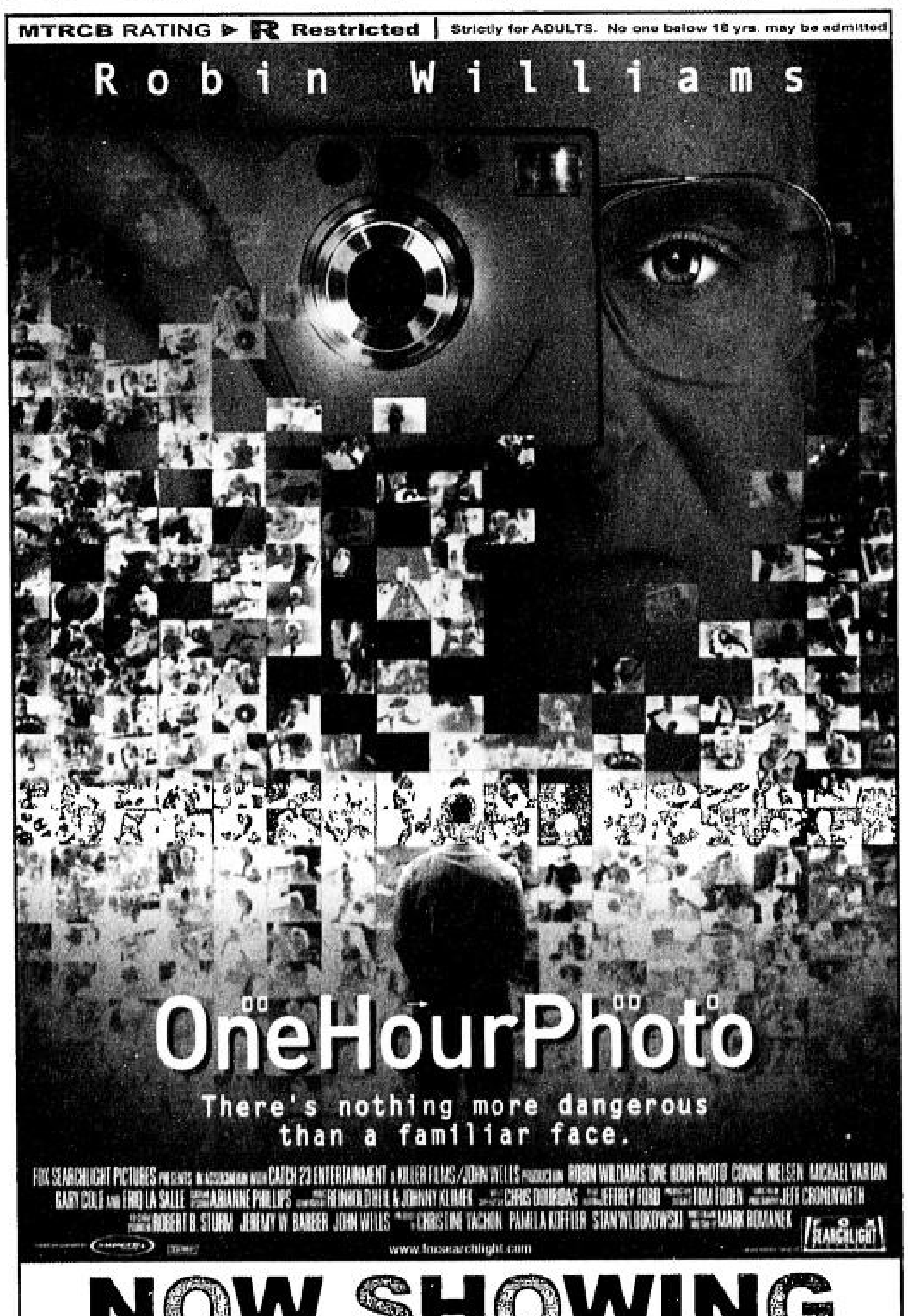
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Strictly for ADULTS. No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted
Robin Williams
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There's nothing more dangerous than a familiar face.
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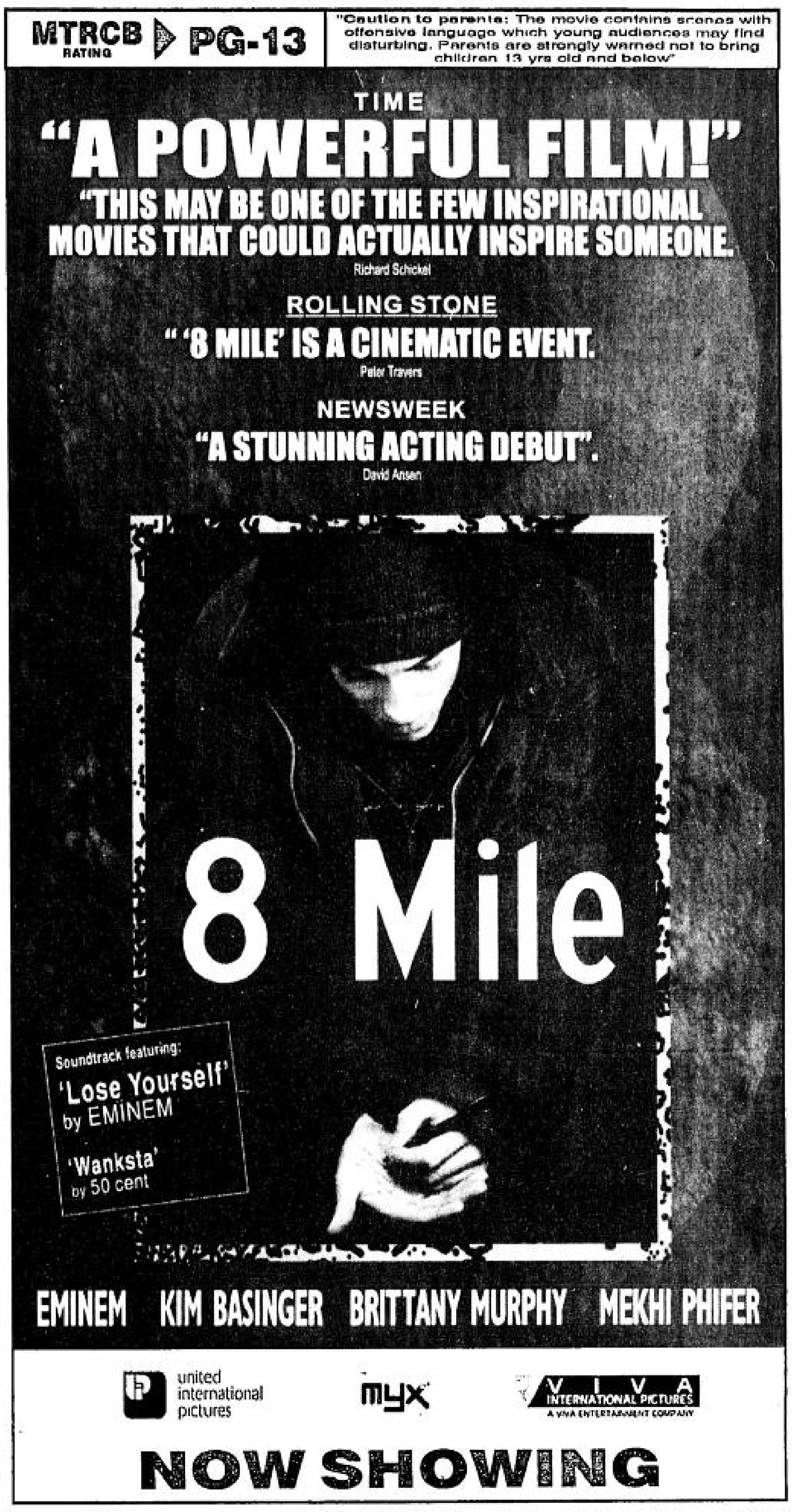
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"THIS MAY BE ONE OF THE FEW INSPIRATIONAL MOVIES THAT COULD ACTUALLY INSPIRE SOMEONE.
Richard Schickel
ROLLING STONE
" '8 MILE' IS A CINEMATIC EVENT.
Peter Travers
NEWSWEEK
"A STUNNING ACTING DEBUT".
David Ansen
8 Mile
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'Lose Yourself' by EMINEM
'Wanksta' by 50 cent
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katya santos
Sukdulan
hanggang saan ka sasabay?
hanggang kailan ka bibigay?
DIRECTED BY MAC C. ALEJANDRE
VIVA FILMS
OPENS JANUARY 29

Councilors oppose plan to move Malabon squatters to Navotas

By Tina Santos

MEMBERS of the Navotas Municipal Council have vowed to oppose Malabon City's plan to resettle in Barangay Tanza, Navotas, some 2,500 squatter families who will be affected by the government's Manila-Clark Rapid Railways project.

Opposition councilor Eddie Santiago said they would explore all legal means to prevent the transfer of the Malabon residents to the proposed resettlement site—a 12.5-hectare unproductive fishpond bought by the Malabon City government allegedly under questionable circumstances for roughly P90 million.

"When you say squatters, expect so many problems to go with it... we will not allow Malabon to do that in Navotas," Santiago said.

The councilor said the municipal council are just waiting for a resolution from the Malabon Council that would legally pave the way for the transfer of the squatters to Navotas.

"After we receive the documents, definitely we will issue a resolution that would disallow them to do that," Santiago said.

Santiago also agreed with Malabon City opposition councilors Eddie Torres and Chiqui Roque-Villaroel, when they said that the Malabon government has been misleading residents when it announced that the resettlement area would be ready in April.

The Manila-Clark project will start this April.

"I think the property would still not be habitable, even after two years," Santiago said.

Santiago said living in the area would only endanger the lives and property of the settlers since the area is an open fishpond.

Malabon City officials, alarmed over the negative feedback their resettlement plan has been generating, have been fending off criticisms from leaders of urban poor groups.

Clarita Eneria, president of Kapit-Kamay sa Potrero, recently revealed that the wife of Malabon Mayor Amado Vicencio, Florinda, allegedly forced her to change her media statement about the condition of the resettlement site.

"(Mrs. Vicencio) wanted me to talk to media and change what I said that the property 'is all water'," Eneria said. "But what I am saying is true, I saw it with my own eyes and I will stick to what I said."

A Navotas official, who declined to be identified, said the land-filled portion of the site belonged to the Navotas local government.

CUSTOMS Commissioner Antonio Bernardo and Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho go through the misdeclared goods from Canada, Taiwan and Vietnam at the Manila International Container Port. *(See story below)*

ERIK ARAZAS

An uncalled-for comment

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

AN EDUCATED Moro has served warning to people who get into an argument with a Muslim: they risk getting killed.

"When a Muslim draws, he shoots," said Prof. Taha Basman, president of the Philippine Islamic Council.

The Moro scholar was reacting to accounts by witnesses that topnotch Ateneo law graduate Jose Ramon Llamas provoked his killer.

Llamas allegedly told the other guy during a road-mishap altercation, "So you have a gun, draw it."

The suspect in the shooting is a Muslim.

* * *

"Never dare a Muslim to draw his gun because he would not hesitate to shoot once he does that. That's part of Islamic culture," Professor Basman said.

In other words, if you're a Christian, don't dare an armed Muslim to shoot you in a heated exchange of words because you deserve to be shot even if you're unarmed.

Professor, does Islamic culture justify shooting an unarmed opponent just because he provoked you?

* * *

What's wrong with some of you guys is that you think your ethnic group has a monopoly of bravery.

Is it bravery to shoot down an unarmed opponent? Is it bravery to stab a guy when his back is turned on you? Is it bravery to overwhelm a lone opponent with sheer numbers?

If that's your idea of bravery, Professor, then I thank God for not making me a Muslim.

* * *

You complain of prejudice against your religion and culture by Christians, but sometimes you invite such bias because you brag about your supposed religious and cultural superiority.

You complain of genocide when some of you started it in the first place by killing innocent women and children and unarmed men just because they happened to be Christians. What you call genocide was just in retaliation for the massacres committed by your fellow Muslims against innocent Christians.

You are like the early white men in America who accused the Indians of scalping their Caucasian victims. In fact, the Indians copied scalping from the French. French settlers in early America scalped dead Indians.

There's only one way for Christians and Muslims to live in harmony not only in the Philippines but in other parts of the world, as well. And that is for them to respect each other's religion and culture.

* * *

Now, on the lighter side. There's this joke about an Arab who was interviewed by a US federal officer over the phone.

Federal Officer: Name?

Arab: Abdul Aziz

IO: Sex?

A: Twice a day.

IO: I mean male or female?

A: Can be male or female. Sometimes even camel.

* * *

A report filed by INQUIRER's Armand N. Nocum yesterday said there were "tensions" arising between the Catholic charismatic group El Shaddai and parish priests.

Nocum said that according to hush-hush talk in the Catholic circle, many parishes have lost their flocks to El Shaddai.

There's only one reason for the quarrel: alms collection.

* * *

The amount of collection in many parishes has decreased because their faithful now contribute to Mike Velarde's "love offerings."

Wala nang kita ang mga pari dahil nakolekta na ni Brother Mike.

Magaling kasing mang-uto si Brother Mike *kaysa sa mga pari.*

* * *

As long as priests see their parishioners as sources of money instead of sheep to be herded to Heaven, they will continue to lose them not only to Catholic charismatic groups like El Shaddai but also to other religious denominations.

And also, as long as the local Catholic Church interferes in the government affairs, like what Jaime Cardinal Sin is doing, the influx of Catholics to other religions will continue.

Many Catholics are turned off by their church's meddling in the business of government.

Customs officials seize P29M in smuggled cars, cell phones

CUSTOMS authorities yesterday seized P29 million worth of contraband goods, including two luxury cars, sugar, rice, and cellular phones and accessories at the Manila International Container Port and Port of Manila.

Seized at the MICP were P9 million worth of smuggled sugar from Canada, assorted branded items including perfumes, bags, and cellular phones and accessories.

At the Port of Manila, Customs men opened eight container vans which yielded two luxury cars, ceramic tiles and rice. The value of the contraband was estimated at P20 million.

Commissioner Antonio M. Bernardo said the seized goods were misdeclared, in violation of the Tariff and Customs Code.

The container vans opened at the Port of Manila were declared to contain paperboard, construction materials and textiles, Bernardo said.

At the MICP, the perfumes, bags and cell phone accessories were not declared in the shipment's documents.

The sugar shipment from Canada, estimated at P3 million, was declared as skimmed milk and was supposedly consigned to RFM Corp. But the company had denied ownership of the importation, and the brokerage listed in the import documents said it had not brokered the shipment.

Bernardo said the bureau was also keeping a close tab on customs bonded warehouses all over the country. The customs chief revealed that it would cut down the number of CBWs to 400 from around 1,000 in a bid to curb technical smuggling.

To stress his point, Bernardo said that the smuggled rice shipment seized yesterday was consigned to a CBW.

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City
Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

ONE HOUR PHOTO R18 11:10, 1:20,3:30, 5:40,7:50,10:10	8 MILE P13 12:50,3:10,5:30, 7:50,10:10	ANALYZE THAT P13 11:20, 1:30,3:40, 5:50,8:00,10:20
HOT CHICK P13 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 10:00	THE RING P13 12:40,3:00,5:20, 7:40,10:00	LORD OF THE RINGS "TWO TOWERS" GP 11:30,3:00,6:30,10:00

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CINEMA 1
LORD OF THE RINGS 2
11:20, 2:50,
6:20, 9:50
GP

CINEMA 2
HOT CHICK
12:00, 2:10, 4:20,
6:30, 8:40
P13

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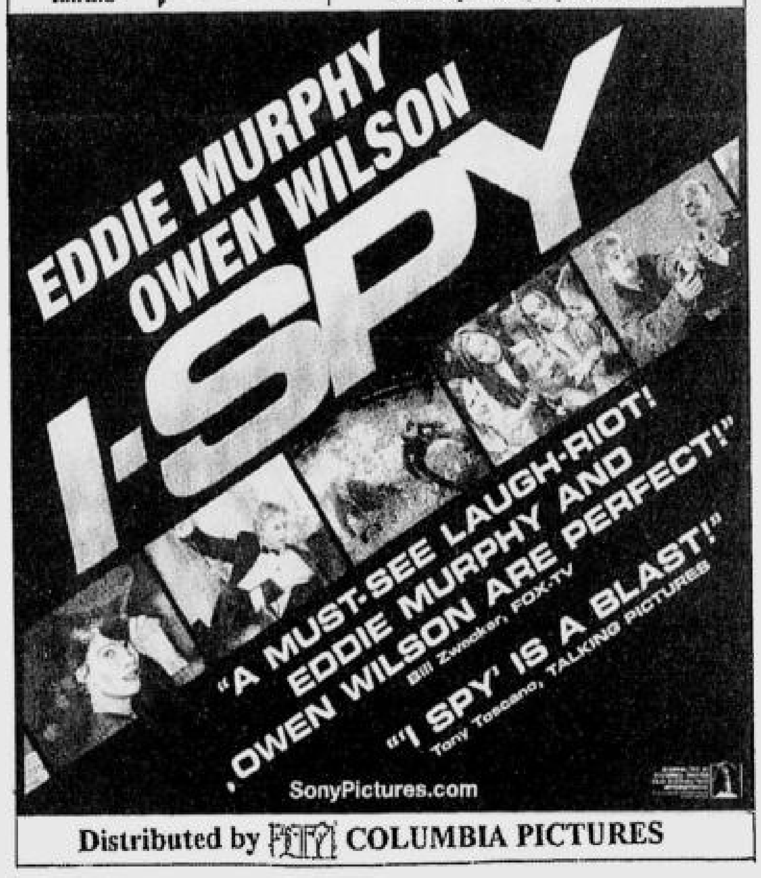

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Bill Zwecker, FOX-TV
"'I SPY' IS A BLAST!"
Tony Toscano, TALKING PICTURES
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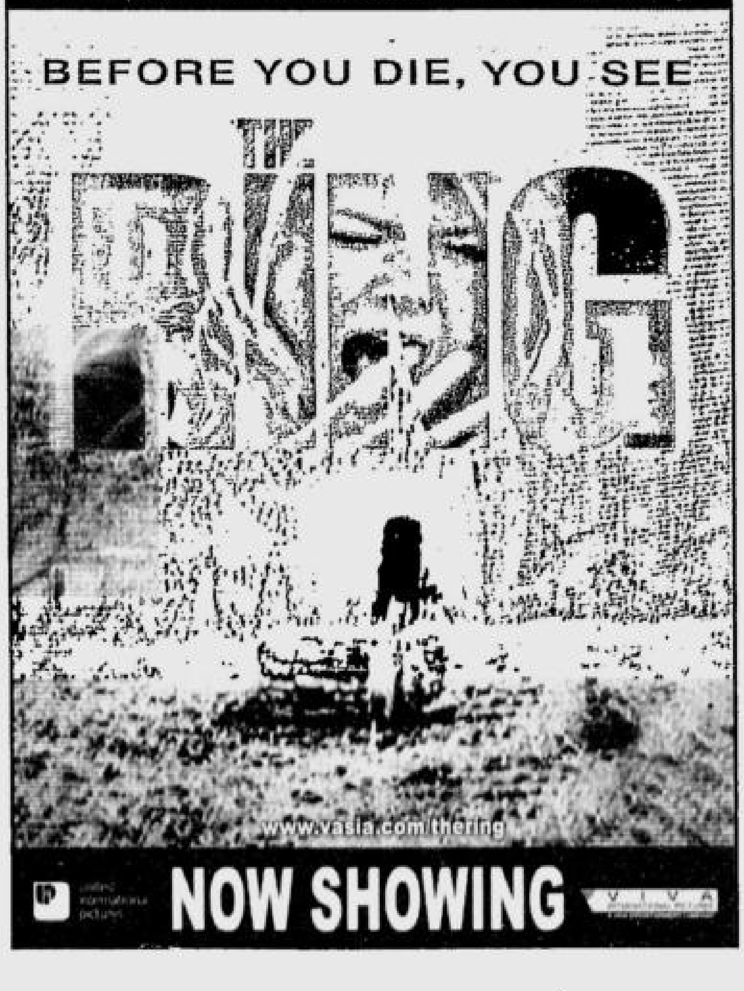


NOW SHOWING
VIVA

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7	
Ali 1	8 MILE
Ali 2	THE RING
Ali 3	HOT CHICK
Ali 4	LOD OF THE RINGS 2
Ali 5	TRY SEVENTEEN
Ali 6	ONE HOUR PHOTO
Ali 7	ANAYLYZE THAT
FARMERS PLAZA CINEMAS	
Farmers 1	MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO
Farmers 2	LORD OF THE RINGS 2
ARANETA COLISEUM	
JAN 24	2003 WORLD SLASHER CUP
FEB 3 & 5	NCA 7 COCK DERBY
FEB 15	ABBA TRIBUTE CONCERT
ELEPHANT WORLD	
JAN 24	3 PM
JAN. 25	3 PM / 5 PM
JAN 26	3 PM / 5 PM

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	ALIAS BOMBA QUEEN / EROTIC DIARIES
ODEON	BANGKERO
ODEON-2	PAKAWALANG PUSO / APOY SA MAGDAMAG
ROBEN	MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	FRAILTY / BALLISTIC
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	THE TOUCH / BALLISTIC
CORONET B	DOUBLE SEDUCTION
QUEZON-1	MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO
REMAR	MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO
REMAR-2	BANGKERO
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	BANGKERO
B	MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	THE LORD OF THE RING
CINEMA-2	ANALYZE THAT
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BANGKERO
CINEMA-2	KERIDA
CINEMA-3	SPIRIT WARRIORS 2
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LORD OF THE RINGS 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	DIE ANOTHER DAY
CINEMA-6	LASTIKMAN
CINEMA-7	DEKADA '70
CINEMA-8	MANO PO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	LORD OF THE RINGS 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LORD OF THE RINGS 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	LORD OF THE RINGS 2
CINEMA-12	HALF PAST DEAD
CINEMA-14	HEAVEN
CINEMA-15	RING
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	DIE ANOTHER DAY
CINEMA 2	BAHID
CINEMA 3	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA 4	CHANGING LANES
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

Siblings in bitter legal conflict over Bio-Research

By Leila Salaverria

TWO BROTHERS who belong to the family that owns the Bio-Research pet shop are locked in a bitter feud over the company's ownership.

In a Dec. 18, 2002 resolution, the Makati Prosecutor's Office allowed Ernest Ang to charge his brother Wilson and Wilson's wife Nancy with estafa for allegedly defrauding the former of his shares of stock in the family-owned company.

Records show that Ernest has accused his brother and sister-in-law of appropriating his shares of stock in Bio-Research Inc. without consent.

When the complainant and his wife migrated to Canada in 1977 to open a pet shop, management of the Philippine operations was left to Wilson. When Ernest returned in 1997, he was surprised to learn that his shares of stock, along with his wife's and mother's, were transferred under Wilson's and Nancy's names.

Ernest said in his complaint that he has never given his brother Wilson or his brother's wife permission to transfer the shares.

In their reply, the respondents denied the accusations and said that the nature of Ernest's complaints are intra-corporate, and not criminal in nature, and thus should be in the jurisdiction of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Wilson and Nancy also alleged that Ernest should not be allowed to reclaim his stake in the now-successful Bio-Research Inc., especially after leaving it in favor of a more secure life abroad.

Yanos needs help.

ROBERT Yanos' simple dream is to see his three children grow up.

But this dream is threatened if Yanos, 34, fails to get the medicine he needs so that his body won't reject his new kidney, said Robert's wife Digna.

According to Digna, she and her husband have been hard pressed to cough up P76,657 a month for Robert's medicine since they became heavily indebted after Robert's October 2002 kidney transplant. They are appealing to kind-hearted people for financial help.

The Yanos family used to earn their living by tilling a 2-hectare land in Bacarreña, San Mateo, Isabela, and receiving 24 cavans of palay each harvest, but Robert's illness has made it hard for the family to farm the land.

Robert's transplant was made possible through the help of concerned people and institutions.

But sadly, his illness has not been cured by the transplant.

A regular intake of various medicines is needed for Robert to make a full recovery and be strong enough to till the land once again.

The family has been making do with the help of friends, neighbors and Robert's family, with whom they are living.

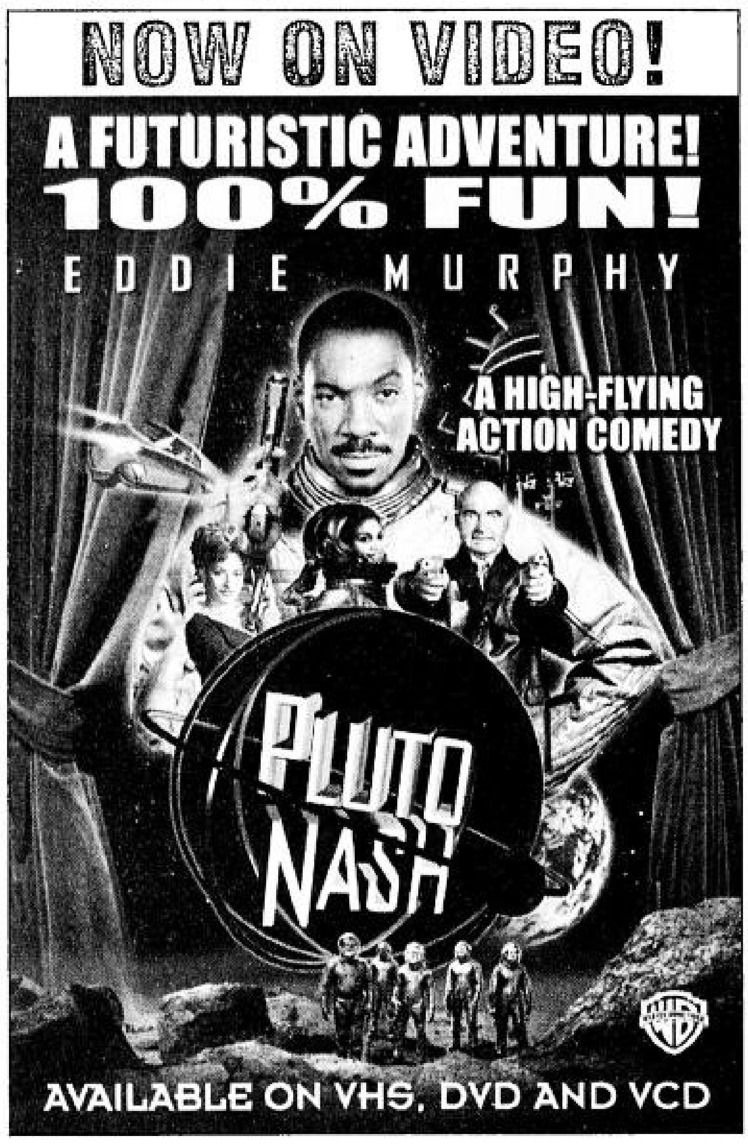
Robert used to help his father in the farm until he got sick.

Digna said Robert wants to live so that he would be able to see their children grow up.

The couple have three kids: a girl, 10, and two boys, aged 9 and 2.

The Yanos family is hoping that readers' assistance would help Robert's dream come true.

Those who wish to help the Yanos family may call Digna at 455-48-21. *Leila Salaverria*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AYALA CINEMAS
OPENS JAN. 29 only at ArtFilm Greenbelt 1
Off Key, aka Desafinado, is a Spanish comedy made in English featuring an international cast.
It is the story of three operatic tenors who performed all over the world together, until a disastrous performance in Mexico City, where they split for good. Now, they are getting together at the French Villa for the wedding of one of the three tenors to the daughter of another. To further complicate things, the bride's mother is married to the third trio member now. The father of the bride, who has fallen on hard times, hires a hooker to accompany him, and to help with his plot to reunite the trio as performers. The groom-to-be has a son, who isn't really his, and who secretly has the hots for the bride's mother.
Starring:
Danny Aiello, George Hamilton, Joe Mantegna
Anna Galiena & Ariadna Gil
OFF KEY
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13
SKYFILMS NOKIA INQUIRER

AYALA CINEMAS
A SPECIAL RETURN ENGAGEMENT
NOW SHOWING only at ArtFilm Greenbelt 1
all over the guy
4 friends, 2 couples
twice as much to lie about in the morning.
4 Friends, 3 Guys, 2 Couples
... You Do The Math.
Starring: Christina Ricci, Lisa Kudrow, Andrea Martin, Joanna Kerns, Nicolas Surovy
"This movie has enough energy and an entertaining, natural sense of humor to provide an enjoyable ride – whether you're gay or straight."
– Wesley Morris, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE
"Loaded with smart, sarcastic one-liners and clever potshots at sexless studio movies like In & Out."
– Lou Lumenick, NEW YORK POST
"It's totally fresh and original, but All Over the Guy is nearly void of gay stereotypes."
– Dave Kehr, NEW YORK TIMES
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R)
SKYFILMS NOKIA INQUIRER

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OPENS JAN. 22 AT ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD
Rated PG-13
VIVA

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YOU PROBABLY WANT TO SEE THIS MOST-TALKED ABOUT HORROR FILM AGAIN AND AGAIN.
YOU ARE WARNED NOT TO ANTICIPATE THOSE SCARY SCENES THAT MAKE YOU SCREAM...
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AT SUMIGAW KA HANGGAT'T GUSTO MO !!!

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Circle of Evil
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GLORIETTA 1, GLORIETTA 4, GREENBELT 1, GREENBELT 3 AND ALABANG TOWN CENTER

THE LORD OF THE RINGS THE TWO TOWERS
EXPLORE THE WORLD OF MIDDLE EARTH
A JOURNEY TO NEW ZEALAND

PROMO MECHANICS:
1. For every purchase of two (2) Lord of the Rings 2 – The Two Towers movie tickets at any Ayala Cinemas – Glorietta 1, Glorietta 4, Greenbelt 1, Greenbelt 3 and Alabang Town Center entitles customer to one (1) Lord of the Rings 2 raffle coupon.
2. Customer to fill up Lord of the Rings 2 raffle coupon with their name, age, home address, office address, handyphone number and email address and affix signature. Customer to drop the attached coupon in the designated drop boxes located at the Ayala Cinemas ticket booths.
3. Deadline for submission of entries is on February 9, 2003 10pm. Raffle draw will be on February 22, 2003 3pm at Glorietta 4 Cinemas Lobby, Makati City in the presence of a DTI representative.
4. Prizes include the following:
Raffle Prizes
4.1 Trip for 2 to New Zealand via Qantas Airways — 1 Winner
4.2 Gift Certificates worth P1,000.00 from Ayala Malls merchants — 2 Winners
4.3 Dinner for 2 in TGIFridays — 2 Winners
4.4 Movie tickets for 2 in Ayala Cinemas — 25 Winners
(5 winners per Ayala Cinema – Glorietta 1, Glorietta 4, Greenbelt 1, Greenbelt 3 and Alabang)
5. Prizes are transferable but not convertible to cash.
6. Customer can win only once. If a customer is drawn more than once, he/ she will get the bigger prize.
7. Winners will be notified through registered mail and telephone call.
8. Prizes can be claimed at the Ayala Land, Inc./ Ayala Cinemas office located at the 5th Floor, Glorietta 4 Building, Ayala Center, Makati City. Please look for Ms. Bunny Lazatin every Monday to Friday from 8:00am – 11:00am and 2:00pm – 4:00pm.
9. To claim prizes, present the notification letter sent by the Ayala Cinemas, claim stub and 2 valid I.D.'s (SSS, Voter's ID, PRC, Driver's License, Passport) with recent picture.
10. Customer may claim their prize until 60 days from receipt of notification letter. Prizes not claimed within the 60 day from receipt of notification letter will be forfeited in favor of Ayala Cinemas with prior approval from DTI-NCR.
11. Securing travel documents and other travel related expenses should be shouldered by the winner. The 20% prize tax will be shouldered by the sponsor
12. Employees of Ayala Land Inc. and Ayala Cinemas and its promotion agencies including relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.
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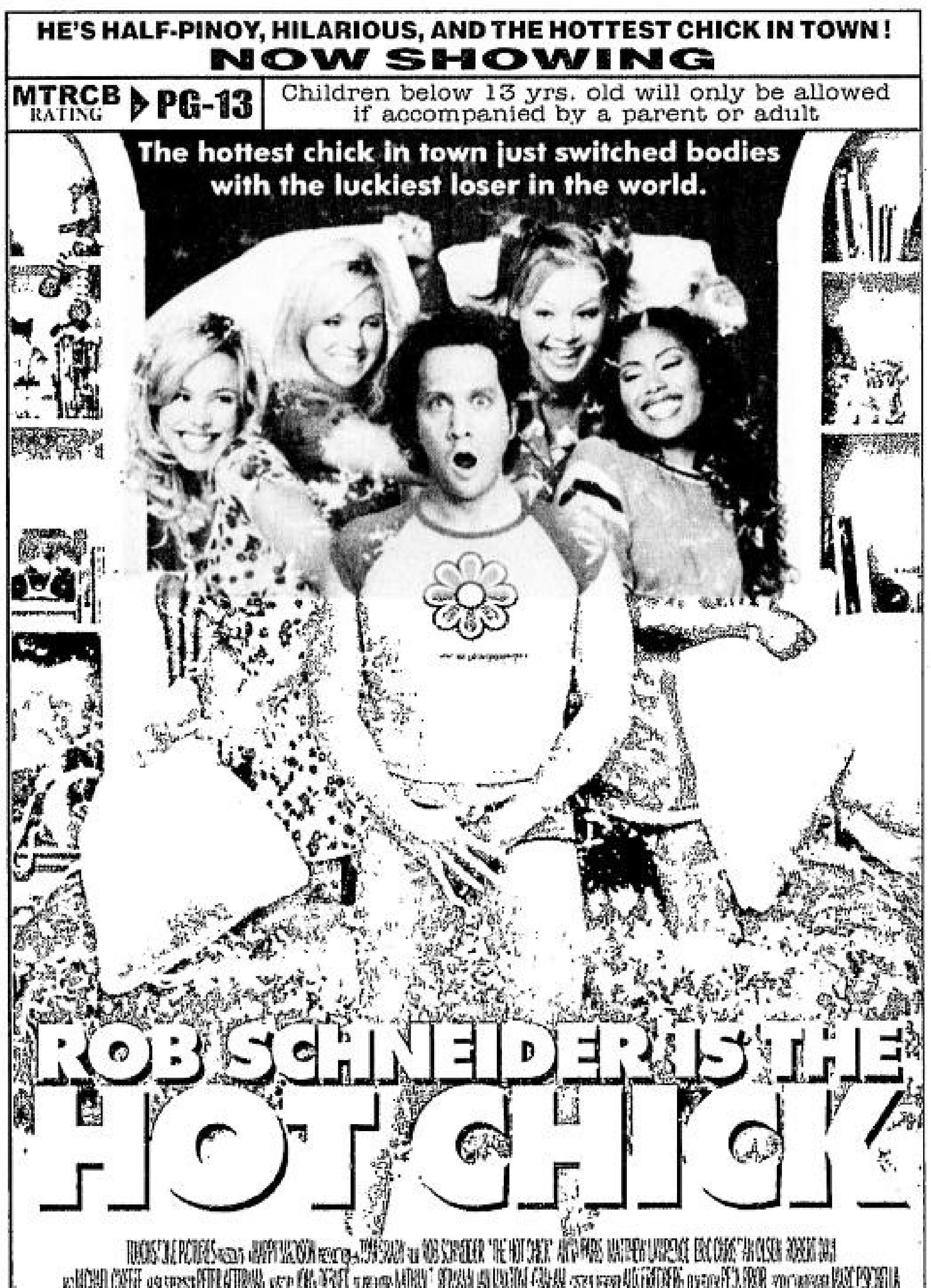
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Believe it or not, Edsa traffic flow eased up in 2002

By Leila Salaverria

Traffic flow along EDSA has improved during the second half of 2002, and Metro Manila Development Authority officials attribute the progress to the various traffic schemes, including the no-left turn policy, imposed on major intersections.

Thus, expect to see these schemes on more intersections this year.

Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel De Dios said the average traffic flow on EDSA has gradually improved from an average of 12 kilometers per hour, to 14 kph, 16 kph and finally, 20 kph.

"However, it slowed down when December rolled in," he said, attributing the development to the holiday shopping rush.

He added that he expects the flow to return to "normal" this month.

Vergel De Dios also said MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando has instructed that the agency's various traffic schemes—the no-left turn rule, the rotunda-style flow of traffic at intersections, the no crossing concept—be continued and implemented in more major intersections in order to combat the often hellish traffic that has been plaguing the metropolis.

The no-left turn rule was initially implemented on the Kamias-Kamuning, Timog-East Avenue and Santolan-Boni Serrano intersections on EDSA in July last year.

The no-crossing concept and the rotunda-style flow of traffic was initially implemented on the traffic-prone intersections on EDSA-North Avenue and EDSA-East Avenue intersections, and the Roxas Boulevard-EDSA extension intersections.

Vergel De Dios said the purpose behind these schemes is to make traffic flow non-stop and make it require less handling by traffic enforcers.

BF just biding his time over waste facility in Quezon

By Leila Salaverria

HE WAS just biding his time.

This was according to Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando, who assured the public that he has no intentions of dropping his plan to build a 2,000-hectare facility in Southern Luzon, even saying that the need for it is imminent.

"I was just waiting for the time when the anger of the Quezon residents subsides," he said in a recent news conference. "They were still emotional."

He said he believes that most the Quezon residents have now come to understand the purpose of his project, and added that the need for a waste processing facility is now more imminent.

"We need this facility," he said. "You've seen the dumpsites we have in Metro Manila. It's only by the facility that we could solve the garbage problem."

Fernando's statements came after Quezon Provincial Board member Eladio Pasamba announced that he lamented the Metro Manila Mayors' alleged rejection of the garbage landfill project.

Pasamba, chair of the council's committee on environment and natural resources, said that the project, which Quezon residents strongly oppose, would have brought a lot of benefits, including the construction of new roads and buildings.

But Quezon residents lambasted Pasamba for insinuating that those who opposed the project were paid to do so by Metro Manila executives. *with Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

DENNIS SABANGAN

A POLICE officer examines 18 stolen utility vehicles in Camp Crame. According to the NCRPO report, at least 184 cars are reported stolen each month in 2002.

NCRPO 2002 REPORT

6 cars stolen in Metro daily

By Alcuin Papa

AROUND six cars are stolen in Metro Manila each day of 2002, according to a report of the National Capital Region Police Office.

According to the figures, a total of 2,219 vehicles were reported stolen in Metro Manila last year. This means an average of 6.07 cars were stolen everyday or 184.9 cars every month.

The NCRPO failed to report the make and brands of most of the stolen cars.

The statistics were released as part of the accomplishment report of the NCRPO during the celebration on Tuesday of PNP Day at the NCRPO headquarters in Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig.

In July 2002, 234 vehicles were stolen—the most number recorded, according to the report. That means that an average of 7.8 cars were stolen each day of that month.

After July, the number of carnapped vehicles reported began to decrease, with 196 for August, 174 for September, 165 for October, 148 for November and 97 for December.

This means that an average of three cars were stolen in Metro Manila every day of December.

There were 218 vehicles stolen in January, 164 for February, 190 in March, 210 in April, 212 in May and 211 in June.

The NCRPO also boasted that it brought down major crimes in the metropolis.

It said there was a decrease in cases of kidnap-for-ransom incidents from 15 in 2002, to 39 in 2001, or a 61.5 percent drop.

According to figures, there were only two bank robberies reported last year, compared to eight in 2001 and nine in 2000.

The NCRPO also reported that there was increase in crime volume for 2002 compared to 2001.

Last year, the NCRPO said there was a total of 19,216 crimes reported, compared to 14,806 for 2001—an increase of 22.94 percent.

The average monthly crime rate also increased, from an average of 15.88 incidents for every month last year, to an average of 13.18 for 2001.

NCRPO chief Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco attributed the increase "to the rise in frequency of reporting of crimes by the public, particularly street crimes such as snatching of cell phones, jewelry and other valuables."

"The increased incidence of reported street crimes were a direct consequence of a more accessible and easier system of reporting crimes instituted by the NCRPO through projects such as 'Txt Patrol 29102 and 'Magic Eye'" Velasco said.

Citizens of the metropolis can now report crimes through texting 2910 on their cell phones.

On the other hand, the NCRPO reported a 1.3 percent increase in solution efficiency rate.

The NCRPO boasted that around 9.5 out of every 10 crimes were solved by police last year.

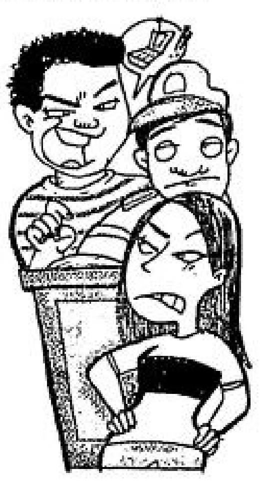
Last year, the NCRPO said it solved 18,196 crimes of the total reported, resulting in a 95.32 percent solution rate.

For the year 2001, the NCRPO reported a solution rate of 14,016 or 94.06 percent.

METROBRIEFS

One bad 'Apple'

FOR KOREAN Terry Oh, the woman he spent the night with turned out not to be the "Apple" of his eye. Oh, 29, a tourist guide, of Seoul, South Korea currently staying at the Summerset Mansion on Leveriza Street, Pasay City, accused Emily P. Lscaca, 35, alias Apple, of stealing his P12,400 cellular phone after they had sex, said Supt. Arturo Paglinawan of the Western Police District. Oh told the police that they checked into the Sogo hotel in Malate, Manila at around 8 a.m. on Tuesday and remembered placing his cell phone on a table. After they had completed their business at around 9 a.m., Apple, of Oroquieta St., Sta. Cruz, Manila, left and the complainant said that he felt so weak he did not notice her take his phone. He said it was only a few minutes later when he noticed that his phone was gone. So he immediately dressed and, with the help of a barangay official, traced the woman's whereabouts and had her arrested. *Philip Tubeza*



Tanod slain in Intramuros

SPO2 Arnel P. Pabines is in hot water after he shot a barangay watchman near the Bureau of Immigration building in Manila Wednesday morning. Pabines, 44, of the Western Police District's Traffic Enforcement Group turned himself in after he shot Alfredo dela Cruz, 27, of Maestranza Compound, Intramuros, Manila, said Detective Dennis Javier. Pabines was about to have an illegally-parked car towed at around 9:30 a.m. at the Plaza Magallanes in Intramuros when Mary Abon approached him, Javier said. She asked Pabines for help because Dela Cruz allegedly was threatening her husband, Joel Manguinimba, with a knife on Muelle del Rio Street, police said. When Pabines arrived and introduced himself as a policeman, the victim allegedly attacked him, forcing the lawman to draw his service gun and shoot Dela Cruz on the chest. *Philip Tubeza*

Fake NBI man nabbed in Cubao

JUN ABRAZALDO on Monday tried to pass himself off as a National Bureau of Investigation agent allegedly so he could extort money from vendors in Cubao, Quezon City. Abrazaldo allegedly told the vendors it was his birthday, and they have to cough cash if they wanted to continue selling their wares. But the vendors had had enough of Abrazaldo and reported him to the police. Abrazaldo, 25, of Karangalan Village, Quezon City, was caught in the act of extorting money from vendors who were selling tools and pirated VCDs at around 4:15 p.m. on EDSA corner Aurora Blvd., Cubao. At the police station, Abrazaldo denied he tried to extort money from the vendors. Police learned that the services of Abrazaldo as NBI confidential agent had been terminated by NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco. *Alcuin Papa*

Ex-con killed in Malabon

JEFFREY Selosa, 24, had just come out of jail when an unidentified man gunned him down early Tuesday morning in a public market in Malabon City. Police suspect that Selosa, of Merville Subdivision, Barangay Tanza, Navotas, was killed by a man out for revenge. Police said Selosa was in front of the Pamilihang Bayan ng Malabon on Estrella Street in Tanong, Malabon, at around 3:30 a.m. when the gunman approached him. When he saw the gunman, Selosa tried to flee. But when the suspect got a clear shot of his prey, he opened fire, hitting Selosa in the head and back. Police identified Selosa through his certificate of discharge from jail. *Tina Santos*

Another body turns up in Manila Bay

ANOTHER body has been found floating in Manila Bay Thursday afternoon, two weeks after the bodies of two other men, believed to be executed, turned up in Quezon City.

The man was stabbed in the head.

The body of the unidentified man was found off Pier 12 South Harbor in Manila, said Detective Edmundo Cabal of the Western Police District.

The police believe that the man was killed elsewhere and that his assailants dumped the body in the harbor.

Three bystanders found the body, which was already beginning to decompose.

The police have no suspects in the killing.

Cabal said witnesses Ronald Bulanon, Moe de Guzman and Joemar Sebangan saw a sack floating beside the commercial ship, Princess of Unity, docked at Pier 12 at around 1 p.m.

They became suspicious when they saw a body part protruding from the sack, Cabal added.

They later pulled it out from the water and found the victim inside. Cabal said he was hogtied and had a stab wound in his right temple.

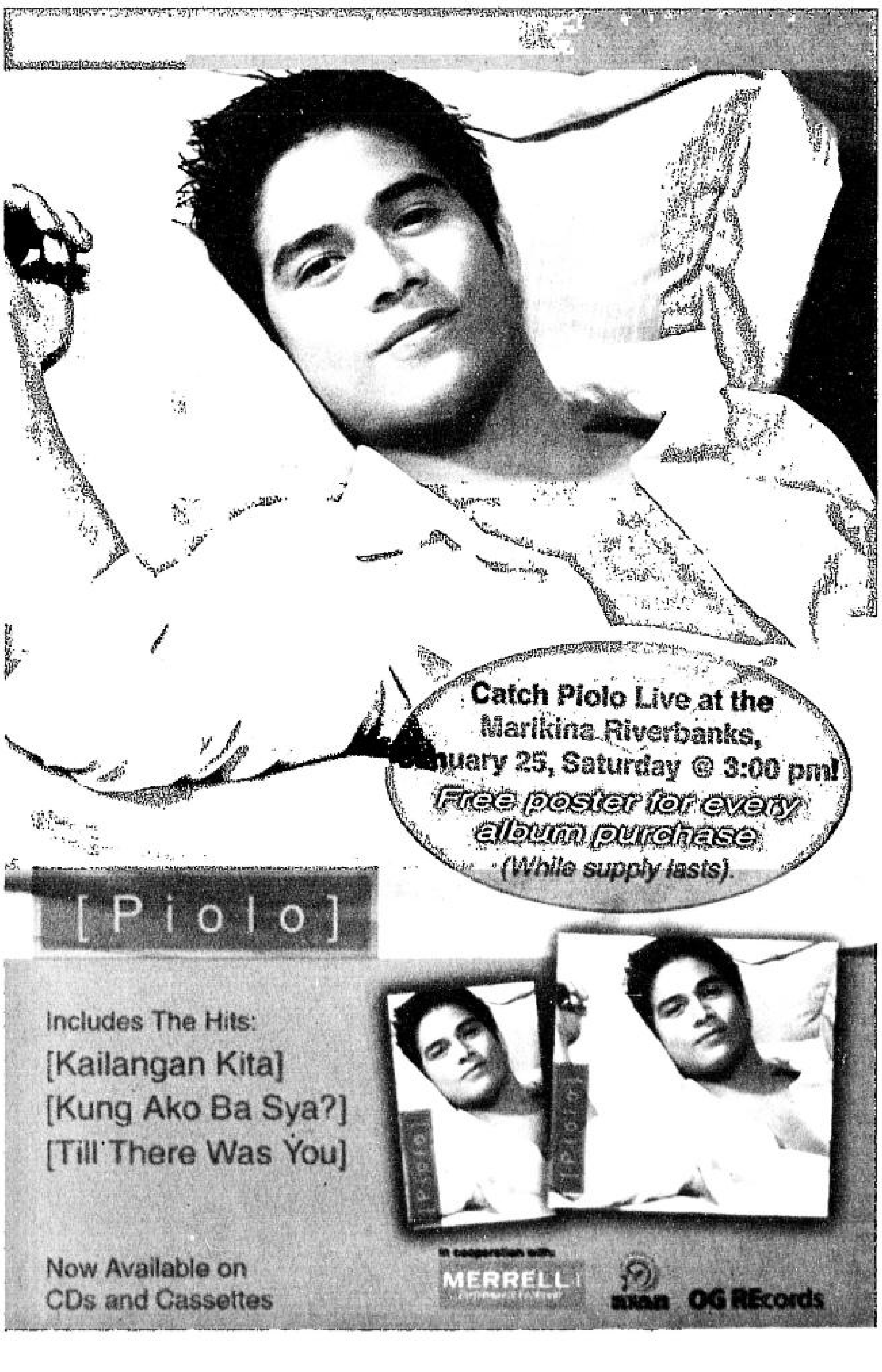
PO3 Marie Coronel and PO2 Joel Babera arrived on the scene and took the body to the Sumilang Funeral Parlor.

There is no indication to whether this killing is related to the deaths of Nelson Alojado and Estemoson Bolan in Quezon City two weeks ago.

Alojado and Bolan's dismembered body parts were found scattered through different areas in Quezon City.

Alojado and Bolan were once detained for illegal possession of firearms.

The police are continuing investigations and have not yet ruled out a link between the Quezon City killings and the body found in Manila. *Matthew Murphy*



VENDORS ON THE WARPATH

MMDA man stabbed; agency sued

By Leila Salaverria and Tina Santos

THE METRO Manila Development Authority's relentless sidewalk clearing operation continues to draw blood when another member of the agency was stabbed by an irate balut vendor.

This developed after hundreds of sidewalk vendors in Monumento area in Caloocan City threatened to file charges against the MMDA for carrying on with their alleged abusive operation.

MMDA employee Armando Sanchez, of Tondo, Manila, is in critical condition at the East Avenue Medical Center after balut vendor Puyoc M. Moreno stabbed the victim in the stomach at around 4:45 p.m. on Thursday.

Police said the incident happened in Magallanes near Mantrade in Makati, near the same place where SPO2 Sabado Pujeda shot dead vendor Eladio Tuacar after the latter fired his gun at MMDA personnel conducting clearing operations.

Investigation showed that Sanchez, along with other MMDA personnel, were removing obstructions in Mantrade and confiscating sidewalk vendors' wares when Moreno, 30, of Barangay Bangkal, Makati, attacked the victim with an 8-inch knife.

Police said Moreno was apparently incensed that the MMDA personnel were taking his wares. Moreno claimed that the MMDA confiscated his pedicab early that same morning.

The MMDA personnel had conducted sidewalk clearing operations on Thursday morning and returned in the afternoon, probers said. Apparently, Moreno was able to hide his wares during the first round of clearing operations, but he did not escape the second round.

SPO4 Teodorico Ramos and SPO1 Cesar Pineda arrested Moreno soon after the incident and brought him to the Makati Police Headquarters.

In Caloocan City, members of the Monumento-Caloocan Vendors Association said that they will press charges against MMDA officials and personnel for allegedly violating several laws in conducting their sidewalk clearing operations.

The vendors group alleged that at least 11 MMDA personnel stole their merchandise and mauled some of their members during clearing operations on Monday and Tuesday.

A 29-year-old fruit vendor, who refused to be identified, told the INQUIRER that they would file charges against Loida Salvador, reportedly the team leader of the MMDA clearing operations team.

"Before they threatened to spray kerosene on our goods," the vendor said. "Now, they are taking our merchandise and even hurting us."

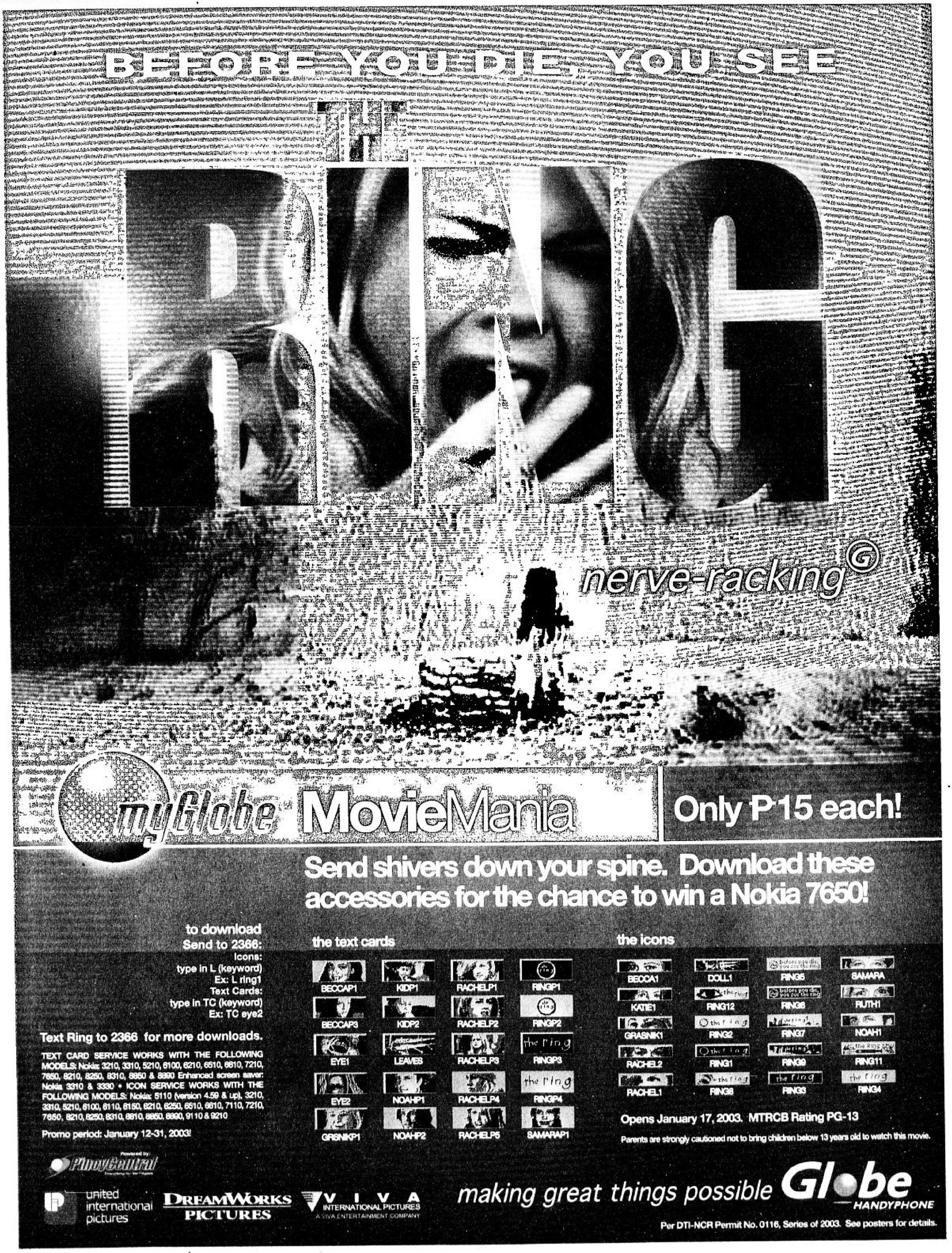
At least five sidewalk vendors have already filed charges of serious physical injuries, grave threats and robbery against Salvador and 10 MMDA men who conducted the clearing operations in front of the Manila Central University Hospital on Edsa in Monumento last Jan. 20 and 21.

The MMDA men have yet to be identified.

PO3 Feliciano Almojela of the Caloocan Police said there were at least 50 MMDA personnel, including Salvador, involved in the clearing operations at the heavily congested streets in Monumento.

The MMDA's sidewalk clearing operations often turns chaotic when sidewalk vendors lash back at the MMDA personnel.

The MMDA's hard-nosed campaign has been the subject of protests by urban poor groups and sidewalk vendors, who blame MMDA chair Bayani Fernando for taking away their livelihood.



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NOAHP1
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GRSNIKP1
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RACHELP5
SAMARAP1
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Parents are strongly cautioned not to bring children below 13 years old to watch this movie.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0116, Series of 2003. See posters for details.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 2003

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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BUSINESS

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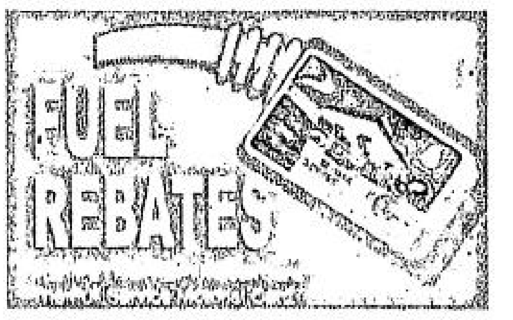

Public debt to hit ₱3.058T in 2003

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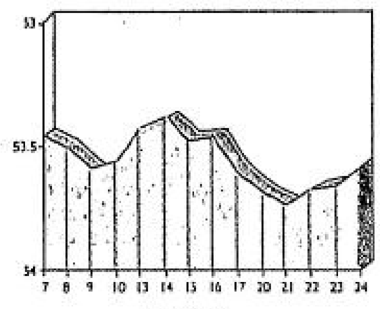

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As of 5 p.m., Jan.24, 2003

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STOCK MARKET

Technical bounce lifts stocks

STOCKS snapped out of a four-day losing streak on yesterday to end slightly up, but analysts said gains may be shortlived given mounting fears of war in the Middle East.

Concerns over a possible US-led war on Iraq—accused of developing weapons of mass destruction—has been dragging the market for weeks.

"This is purely technical. We've been moving down for four days due to Iraq. There must be a pause. However, there are no encouraging signs that could sustain this," said AB Capital economic analyst Jose Vistan.

The main index closed 1.89 points or 0.18 percent higher at 1,050.42 points. On the week, the index was down 3.1 percent.

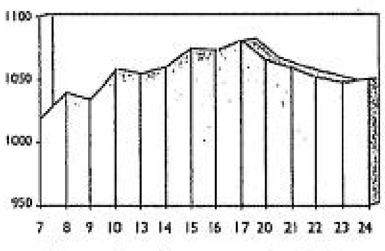
Value turnover fell nearly 30 percent to P127.29 million from Thursday's P179.71 million.

In the broader market, gainers beat losers 25 to 14 and there were 34 stocks unchanged.

Reuters

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

JANUARY



(See stock market report on Page B2)

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PHILIPPINES' public debt is projected to hit P3.058 trillion this year, an increase of P250 billion or 8.9 percent from P2.808 trillion in 2002 due to an expected borrowing binge to finance a chronic fiscal problem.

Compared to 2001, the outstanding debt this year would be higher by 28.21 percent or P673 billion.

Government documents showed that the programmed debt stock this year was equivalent to 71.2 percent of the country's gross domestic product, slightly higher than 71.1 percent of GDP in 2002 and up from 65.5 percent in 2001.

The government will have to dip into state coffers to pay P425.7 billion in maturing debts this year, of which P230.7 billion are for interest and P195 billion for principal.

Both interest and principal payments this year are higher compared to P185.8 billion and P172.1 billion last year. Interest payments would eat up 29.3 percent of the programmed expenditures this year from 23.9 percent in 2002.

Debt service as a percentage of GDP would increase to 9.9 percent from 9.1 percent in 2002 and 7.5 percent in 2001.

"Interest payments have grown due to the accumulation of fiscal deficits from 1998 that caused the increases in borrowings. For this reason, it is imperative for us to work toward a balanced or surplus fiscal position to prevent this increasing share of interest expense in our expenditures," Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said in his presentation before the Senate.

The finance chief, in an earlier interview, pointed out that government's deteriorating revenues had to be addressed with legislative measures that would increase collection.

For every law passed that would require the government to shell out money, Congress must pass an equivalent revenue measure. This arrangement is the subject of a draft legislation proposed by the Department of Budget.

"We can implement administrative measures to improve collection efficiency but future revenues also depend largely on the economic measures that have to be passed in order to plug loopholes that have caused massive leaks," Camacho said earlier.

The only thing the government could control, according to Camacho, was its borrowing program, ensuring that it could source funds efficiently and opportunistically.

"We have to borrow what we have to borrow, there's nothing we can do about that anymore. The only way we can break the cycle is when we have established a long trend of primary surplus," the finance chief said.

The debt stock includes only the state's local and foreign borrowings and not the external liabilities of the private sector.

ADB study says liberalization failed to curb poverty

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE ECONOMIC liberalization measures introduced in the Philippines in the post-Marcos era, although a boon to its regional development, are not enough to alleviate poverty, according to a study by Asian Development Bank economists.

The study, titled "Is Economic Openness Good for Regional Development and Poverty Reduction?" by ADB economists Ernesto Pernia and Pilipinas Quising, analyzed data on the country's 14 regions over the period 1988-2000 during which significant liberalization took place as indicated by the ratio of regional exports to economic growth.

While the study stressed that economic openness appeared to be beneficial to development in various regions, there was no direct impact on poverty reduction.

"It seems that economic openness cannot by itself bring about more balanced regional development, such as, narrower disparities in regional incomes and poverty," the study said.

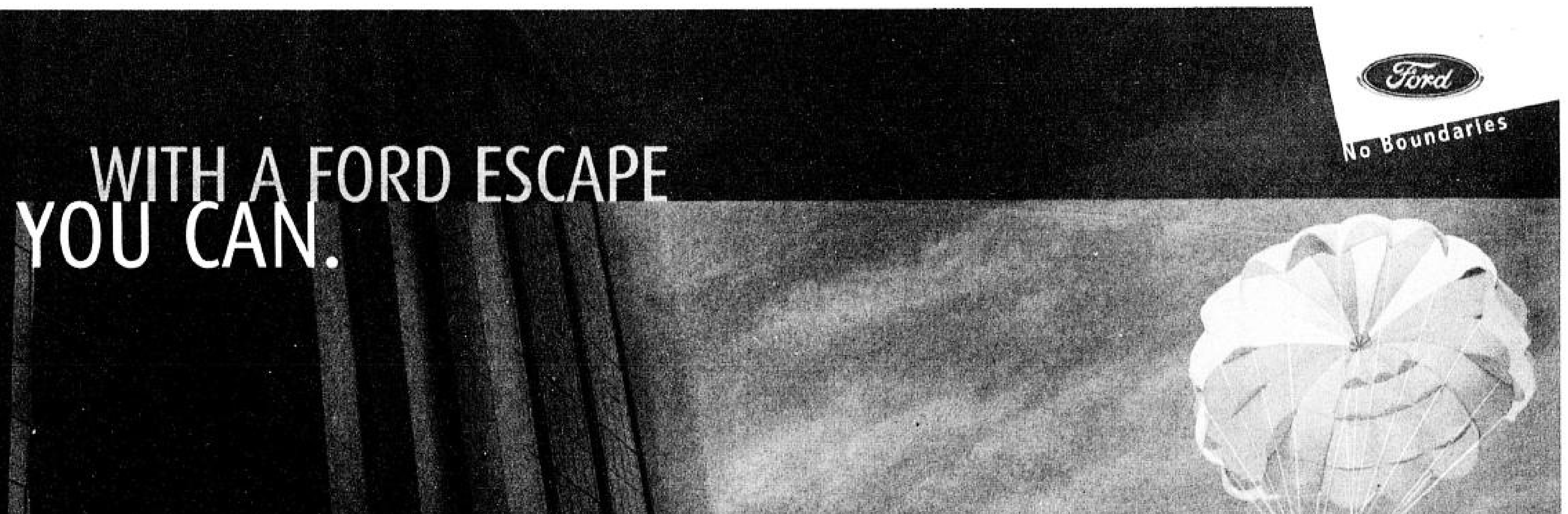
In the post-colonial era, further spatial development is set by domestic market forces and public policy, and external factors tend to follow such set pattern, the study said. For instance, it noted that foreign direct investment would usually go to areas with good infrastructure, human capital and favorable policy environment while non-traditional exports tended to originate in areas with adequate physical and human capital.

"To foster more balanced regional development, the government must take the lead in providing infrastructure, implementing sound decentralization measures, and improving the climate for private sector investment and productivity," the study said.

Among the indicators used by the study were the consumption expenditure per capita of the poorest segment and the level of poverty incidence, or the proportion of the population below the poverty line. The common pattern found was that there was no discernible improvement in interregional inequality over the covered period.

During the covered period, poverty incidence was lowest in Metro Manila at 5.6 percent, fol-

ADB/ B2



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Finex seeks OK of anti-dirty money law amendments

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE FINANCIAL Executives Institute of the Philippines yesterday called on the Senate and House of Representatives to prioritize the passage of the amendments to the Anti-Money Laundering Law.

In a statement, Finex members urged the Senate and the House to pass the critical amendments to the Anti-Money Laundering Act to ensure the removal of the Philippines from Financial Action Task Force's list of non-cooperative countries and territories.

"This (the approval of the amendments) should also send the message to the international community that the Philippines is serious about fighting terrorism and cross border criminal activities," Finex said.

The FATF, composed of 29 countries and international organizations, threatened to impose countermeasures on the Philippines if no amendment to the anti-money laundering law is passed before its plenary meeting on Feb. 10 to 14 this year in Paris.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho and Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura have certified and endorsed as a priority bill the proposed amendments to the law.

The changes sought included the lowering of the threshold amount of "suspicious transactions" and the submission of reports on suspicious transactions to the Anti-Money Laundering Council. Other proposed amendments have already been submitted to Congress.

Measures that might be imposed on the country by FATF include the following:

- Stringent requirements for the identification of clients, and the beneficial owners, to financial institutions.
- Systematic reporting of financial instructions to the FATF members on the basis that financial transactions with the Philippines are, most likely, suspicious.
- Disallowing Philippine financial institutions from establishing subsidiaries or branches in FATF member countries.
- Warning non-financial sector businesses that transactions with entities within the Philippines, as non-cooperative country and territory, may face the risk of money laundering.

"Simply stated, unless the Philippines is removed from the list of non-cooperative countries and territories, the consequences will result in severe losses, on both the social and economic levels. The hardest and most immediate hit may be felt by our more than eight million overseas Filipino workers whose overseas remittances, now reaching more than $10.0 billion, have been depended on greatly by their families here," Finex said in the same statement.

Finex also pointed out that the national government, which badly needs the $10 billion in OFW remittances to cover its deficit and to increase its international reserves, would suffer from the impact of such countermeasures.

If countermeasures were imposed on the Philippines by the FATF, a simple overseas remittance that normally takes only a few hours to process would be delayed as the recipient of the remittance would be subjected to closer scrutiny, Finex said. A higher handling fee on remittances might also be imposed.

"In the end, it will hamper the inflow of foreign investments which are needed by the country," Finex asserted.

Metrobank, ANZ to form joint venture

MELBOURNE—Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Ltd. yesterday said it was planning to set up a credit card joint venture with the Philippines' largest bank, Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co .

Under the terms of a memorandum of understanding, ANZ was likely to buy a stake for less than A$20 million ($11.8 million) in Metrobank Card Corp, the credit card subsidiary of Metrobank, which is the fifth largest issuer in the rapidly growing Philippine credit card market.

Details of the agreement were to be hammered out by mid-year, but an ANZ spokeswoman said the cost "is not material to the ANZ Group." "It's an attractive, high-growth option for us," said ANZ spokeswoman Rita Zonius.

"There's low penetration in the credit card market. And we expect credit cards could grow at a compound annual rate of around 15 percent over the next 10 years." ANZ said it was too early to say how large a stake it would have in the joint venture, but expected the partnership to operate as a true joint venture. *Reuters*

PCPO-MALACANANG

P282-M LOAN FOR GAS STATIONS

PRESIDENT Macapagal with Development Bank of the Philippines chair Vitaliano N. Nanagas, DBP president and CEO Simon R. Paterno and Energy Secretary Vicente Perez during the presentation of the Memoranda of Understanding on the provision lending and financial assistance worth P282 million to entrepreneurs who are putting up gasoline stations in the countryside. The MOU was signed by DBP and DOE and presented to the President yesterday during the 56th anniversary celebration of DBP.

SEC tightens reportorial requirement

By Michelle V. Remo

SECURITIES and Exchange Commission Chair Lilia Bautista said on Thursday that the SEC would no longer waive or reduce penalties for delayed or non-submission of documents required by the commission.

Even companies that are facing financial difficulties would now have to start paying the penalties in full.

The decision to do away with the penalty reductions or waivers was in line with the SEC's thrust to intensify its monitoring of the registered firms' compliance with the commission's reportorial requirements this year.

In the past two years, the SEC has been granting requests for reduction or waiver of penalties on companies that were losing money due to the poor economic conditions.

With the SEC's policy to strictly enforce penalties, these companies must now ensure that they file on time the documents required by the commission, such as financial statements and general information sheets.

Penalties include a basic fine of P10,000 and P100 per day of delay of submission for brokers and transfer agents, and a fine of P200 per day of delay for investment houses.

As a way of intensifying monitoring of registered companies, the SEC will also implement the Compliance Monitoring and Evaluation System, which will provide an automated facility to monitor the compliance of registered entities with government laws and regulations.

CMES will enable online analytical processing of the financial performance of registered entities, as well as provide a mechanism to monitor enforcement of actions against non-complying companies.

Banks' NPL level down to 16.27% in November

THE RATIO of commercial banks' non-performing loans (NPLs) to their total loan portfolios fell to 16.27 percent in November from 16.36 percent in October, the central bank said in a statement yesterday.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas attributed the slight improvement in the NPL level to the commercial banks' restructuring and foreclosure proceedings.

In November, the commercial banks' restructured loans slightly increased by 1.20 percent or P1.51 billion to P127.58 billion, while real estate and other property owned and acquired grew by 0.48 percent from the previous month.

In a related development, Philippine National Bank (PNB), the country's fourth largest private bank, registered a non-performing loan ratio of 51 percent of its total loan portfolio as of Dec. 17, 2002.

The loss-making bank has one of the highest bad loan ratios in the industry.

PNB said the amount of the bank's non-performing loans was P44.94 billion, while its specific provisions for loan losses was P16.88 billion.

The bank earlier said it was planning to transfer about P27 billion of foreclosed assets and P43 billion in bad loans to an asset management company it intends to set up with foreign partners.

The plan is part of a bigger rehabilitation program to get PNB back into the black. The bank reported a net loss of P1.4 billion in the first 10 months of 2002.

There were no comparative figures but PNB reported a net loss of P1.5 billion in the first nine months of 2002 and a loss of P5.3 billion in January to September 2001. *Reuters*

HSBC tapped to underwrite $150M in bonds

THE GOVERNMENT has tapped HSBC to underwrite the sale of $150-million worth of one-year zero coupon bonds, which was intended to finance borrowings from Citicorp Capital Philippines.

The bonds will carry a coupon rate of 3.06 percent. HSBC's offer, according to sources, bested proposals submitted by Citibank and Standard Chartered Bank.

The borrowing from Citicorp was obtained in December 2001 as part of the state's advanced borrowings for 2002.

Unlike regular debt notes, the yields on zero coupon bonds are deducted from the proceeds to be generated by the issuer, in this case the government.

In 2002, HSBC was one of the three underwriters for a $1-billion, seven-year global bond issue in March.

Acesite sees 13% drop in sales

By Doris C. Dumlao

HOTELIER Acesite (Phils.) Hotel Corp. said it would lose about 13 percent of its business following the pullout of US-based Holiday Inn Hotels & Resorts as steward of its Manila Pavilion Hotel along United Nations Avenue.

Acesite corporate secretary Vicente Gregorio yesterday told the Philippine Stock Exchange this would translate to P30.3 million in foregone annual sales that were previously accounted for by Holiday Inn.

Acesite also expects to spend about P6 million to install new signs, logo and symbols after Holiday Inn preterminated a management contract that was supposed to end in 2005.

"The corporation, however, believes that the business of the hotel will remain competitive and stable," Gregorio said.

"The corporation has taken immediate steps to reassure its guests that the hotel remains dedicated to the standards of service excellence, guest safety, security and satisfaction," he said.

Holiday Inn decided to preterminate its contract with Acesite effective Feb. 28 due to dissatisfaction over the physical conditions of the hotel building.

Holiday Inns (Philippines) Inc. (HIPI) told Acesite that the hotel building's current physical condition was no longer in keeping with the norms of a Holiday Inn hotel.

Despite the pullout of Holiday Inn, Acesite vowed to continue a program to upgrade the hotel's fire and life safety systems, together with some soft room renovation.

ADB study . . .

From page B1

lowed by Central Luzon, Southern Tagalog, and Cordillera Autonomous Region at just under 20 percent. Western Mindanao and Bicol had the highest poverty rates at over 50 percent.

One surprising finding was the relatively high poverty rate in Central Visayas (39 percent) despite its relatively high income level and good education and health indicators.

"This probably reflects sharper intraregional inequality, implying that aggregate economic and social benefits may not be trickling down fast enough to the lower levels," the study said.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of January 24, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.6	13,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	19,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	36.5	37	36.5	37	430,900
China Banking Corp.	635	640	630	630	23,630
Citystate Savings Bank	14.75	14.75	14.75	14.75	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	26.5	26.5	26	26	18,400
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	30.5	30.5	30	30.5	86,600
Phil. Bank of Comm. A	100	100	100	100	300
Phil. Savings Bank	27	27	27	27	120,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7	1,000
Security Bank Corp.	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	600
Union Bank of the Phil.	17	17	17	17	15,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	80,000
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	10,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1005	1005	1005	1005	920
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	4,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	0.41	0.42	0.41	0.42	750,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	495	495	495	495	1,220
Ipeople, Inc	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	10,000
Island Info And Tech Inc.	0.025	0.026	0.025	0.026	500,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	312.5	315	312	5 315	26,230
Ivantage Corp.	.3	000 .3	0.3	0.3	300,000
Philweb Corp	.0110	.011	.011	.011	500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	8.7	8.7	8.6	8.7	363,000
Manila Electric Co. B	12.25	12.5	12	12.5	916,800
Petron Corp.	1.62	1.64	1.62	1.64	378,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	140,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	277,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.42	2.42	2.42	2.42	50,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	30,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75	79,500
La Tondeña Distillers Inc	34.5	34.5	34.5	34.5	200
RFM Corp.	.6900	.69	.69	.69	120,000
San Miguel Corp. A	57	57.5	57	57.5	155,600
San Miguel Corp. B	64	64	63.5	64	87,400
Vitarich Corp.	.3000	.3	.3	.3	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.35	4.35	4.25	4.3	470,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.32	2.32	2.32	2.32	102,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	10,000
A. Soriano Corp.	.5300	.53	.53	.53	4,280,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	410,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	100,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	480,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.013	0.015	0.013	0.015	1,200,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	9.4	9.4	9.2	9.3	110,000
Ionics Inc.	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	50,000
JG Summit Holdings Inc	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	414,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.155	0.16	0.155	0.16	1,180,000
Philtread Holdings Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	6,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	280,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. B	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	243,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	100,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	8,600
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	.3000	.3	.3	.3	400,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.38	0.4	0.38	0.4	740,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (PDR)	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	1,000
Jollibee Warrants	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	1,000
WGA - Preferred	2.24	2.24	2.24	2.24	1,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	5,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5	5.1	5	5	1,132,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.94	0.95	0.93	0.94	1,450,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	18,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	760,000
MINING					
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1	1	1	1	600,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.23	0.23	0.225	0.23	3,630,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	200,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.32	440,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.32	0.34	0.32	0.33	3,170,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	31,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	5,000,000
Pacifica	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	6,000,000
South China Resources Inc	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	20,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	821,350	38,718,650.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	16,371,450	48,415,915.00
PRO	141,580,000	37,213,380.00
Mining	6,040,000	2,662,200.00
OIL	42,020,000	138,900.00
GRAND TOTALS:	207,832,800	127,149,045.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	381.55	DOWN 1.77
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,493.15	UP 4.33
PRO	453.30	UNCH 0.00
Mining	1,374.99	UP 42.01
OIL	1.08	UP 0.03
All Shares Index	643.31	UP 0.49
Composite	1,050.42	UP 1.89

NO. OF ADVANCES: 25; NO. OF DECLINES: 14; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 34; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 73; NO. OF TRADES: 769

CURRENCIES

Jan. 24, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	0.929282	1.000000	53.692000
Japan	Yen	0.007873	0.008472	0.454900
United Kingdom	Pound	1.508782	1.623600	87.174300
Hongkong	Dollar	0.119154	0.128222	6.884500
Switzerland	Franc	0.682693	0.734646	39.444600
Canada	Dollar	0.609565	0.655953	35.219400
Singapore	Dollar	0.536692	0.577534	31.009000
Australia	Dollar	0.549383	0.591191	31.742200
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.465069	2.652661	142.426700
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.247822	0.266681	14.318600
Brunei	Dollar	0.535146	0.575871	30.919700
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000105	0.000113	0.006100
Thailand	Baht	0.021794	0.023452	1.259200
UAE	Dirham	0.253010	0.272264	14.618400
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.076100	57.778000
Argentina	Peso	0.295949	0.318471	17.099300
Brazil	Real	0.264001	0.284091	15.253400
Denmark	Kroner	0.134456	0.144688	7.768600
India	Rupee	0.019433	0.020912	1.122800
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.244580	0.263193	14.131400
Mexico	New Peso	0.086606	0.093197	5.003900
New Zealand	Dollar	0.508304	0.546986	29.368800
Norway	Kroner	0.133814	0.143997	7.731500
Pakistan	Rupee	0.016036	0.017256	0.926500
South Africa	Rand	0.106925	0.115062	6.177900
Korea	Won	0.000797	0.000858	0.046100
Sweden	Kroner	0.108144	0.116374	6.248400
Syria	Pound	0.018044	0.019417	1.042500
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.026928	0.028977	1.555800
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000484	0.000521	0.028000

DISCLOSURES

GLOBE Telecom Inc. will hold its investors' briefing on Jan. 29, 3 p.m. at the Rizal A Ballroom of Makati Shangri-La.

* * *

MABUHAY Vinyl Corp. said Philippine Resins Industries Inc. was no longer its subsidiary as it already sold its 49-percent stake in the company.

* * *

BANK of the Philippine Islands set March 4 as record date for its annual stockholders' meeting on April 3.

* * *

COSMOS Bottling Corp. said the price of the convertible preferred shares subject to mandatory redemption was set at P4.49 per share equivalent to the issue price of P4.20 plus accumulated dividends until Feb. 20, 2003.

* * *

THE BOARD of **Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.** designated Antonio Ramon Lopez compliance officer under the company's manuals on corporate governance and anti-money laundering. Members of its audit committee are Raul Leopando, Roberto Atendido and Roberto Macasaet Jr.

* * *

MUSIC Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Feb. 7, 2 p.m at the Renaissance Room of New World Hotel. Only stockholders of record as of Jan. 3 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang ◉ Assistant Editor Stella O. Gonzales

RP's dirty air remains a heavy burden

By Charles E. Buban

TIME was when people living in the elevated Antipolo area enjoyed looking at a pristine Metro Manila skyline. On a clear day, in fact, they could even gaze at ships on Manila Bay.

Nowadays, people will have to peer through the blanket of hazy veil that covers the country's most densely populated and urbanized metropolis.

This situation is not just confined to Metro Manila. The levels of air contaminants in other urban areas have also risen, according to the World Bank-sponsored report Philippine Environment Monitor 2002 on Air Quality.

In Manila, Cebu, Davao and Baguio—the four urban areas included in the report—fine particle emissions result in an estimated 2,000 premature deaths each year, 9,000 cases of chronic bronchitis and 51 million days of respiratory illnesses.

The report said the total cost of exposure to pollutants in these four cities alone adds up to over P24 billion a year in treatment and medication.

If this estimate were applied to the rest of the country's urban population, this would mean a staggering P80 billion in medical treatment, lost wages, low productivity and premature loss of life.

Major pollutant

The report suggested that government address the problem of particulate matters (PM) in Metro Manila and other large cities given its serious health impact.

PM is a complex mixture of dust, dirt, smoke and liquid droplets, varying in size (measured in microns) and composition.

The World Bank report revealed that residents of Metro Manila are exposed annually to some 127,000 tons of coarse particles (PM of 10 microns) mostly coming from burning and road dust, transport vehicles and industrial and power plants.

The figure does not yet include data on indoor pollution that can cause or contribute to the development of asthma and hypersensitivity pneumonitis (inflammation of the lungs) or even fine particles (PM of 2.5 microns), which also result from fuel combustion from motor vehicles as well as from residential fireplaces and wood stoves. When inhaled, they could get trapped in the lungs, endangering the elderly, children and individuals with cardiopulmonary disease.

Heart problems

Researchers abroad recently reported that air pollution aggravates not only asthma but also heart problems, such as ischemia (decreased blood flow to the heart) while exercising after being exposed to such pollution.

Estimates of health impact and costs by fine particles in 2001

City	PM$_{10}$ Annual average ($\mu g/m^3$)	Population in million	Excess deaths	Chronic bronchitis	Respiratory symptoms in million	Cost in million US$
Metro Manila	65.8	10.04	1,915	8,439	50.5	392
Davao	39.8	1.018	83	429	2.6	15
Cebu	45.0	0.73	170	336	2.0	16
Baguio	75.2	0.26	49	262	1.6	9
Total	--	12.11	2,217	9,466	56.7	432

Note: PM$_{10}$ refers to fine particles.

SOURCE: WORLD BANK

Ischemia is often painless, but is a sign of serious heart disease. Researchers said pollution may either help clumps of artery-clogging plaque break off—causing heart attacks and strokes—or could cause dangerous heart rhythms, or both.

Heart rate also increases after exposure to pollution—from an average of 61 beats per minute to 90, the researchers added.

Other pollutants

Other pollutants, although not visible also cause considerable negative effect to human health and the environment.

Gases such as oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), sulfur dioxide (SO_2), carbon monoxide (CO), ozone (O_3) and heavy metals like lead interact with other compounds in the atmosphere to form harmful particles.

NO_x is a collective term used for nitrogen oxide and dioxide which are produced mainly from fuel combustion. The effects of NO_x depend on its reaction with other pollutants: with hydrocarbons it creates smog that aggravates asthma; with SO_2 it creates acid rain; and with ammonia, moisture and other compounds it reacts to form nitric acid and harmful nitrates.

SO_2 is formed when fuel containing sulfur (coal and oil) is burned in energy production and industrial processes. SO^2 is one of the leading causes of respiratory problems in humans.

If there's one deadly gas produced from fuel combustion, CO_2 ranks as the most toxic for humans. Inhaling CO_2 can disrupt oxygen supply in the blood, causing unconsciousness and eventual death.

Ozone is not as deadly but can cause eye irritation, chest discomfort, cough and headache.

Lead is another pollutant that can damage vital organs, particularly the brain.

Proposed solutions

Other Asian capitals have tried and tested several solutions to the alarming situation, the World Bank report said. It recommended the following which could yield significant results over a reasonable period of time:

- Improve commercial vehicle maintenance through emissions inspection and requirements while giving substantial sanctions for noncompliance.
- Shift from two-stroke to four-stroke engines in tricycles because they are much cleaner and more fuel efficient. (Of the total number of tricycles plying the country's streets, 75 percent still use two-stroke engines.)
- Require manufacturers to install exhaust catalysts for gasoline-run vehicles to reduce carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides.
- Reduce sulfur in diesel fuel. (Sulfur content in automotive diesel is currently at 2,000 ppm; the Clean Air Act requires its reduction to 500 ppm by 2004, the standard used in many countries today.)
- Enforce the ban on waste burning in cities. Local government units must promote waste recycling, composting and sanitary land filling of municipal solid waste.
- Encourage the public to combat air pollution by using public transportation and energy-efficient appliances, planting trees and reporting smoke-belching vehicles to authorities.

Death by air pollution

By Willie T. Ong, MD, MPH
Contributor

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

MANNY, a 50-year-old bus dispatcher in Manila, is the sole breadwinner of his family of three. He has two teenage boys and a daughter. For the past two years, Manny had noticed that he would develop chest pains whenever he got a whiff of sooty bus exhausts. Later on, Manny got tired easily and would wake up short of breath.

When I saw this sickly man, I could not decipher the cause of his many heart attacks. An echocardiogram revealed that his heart had expanded like a rubber band and was only pumping at 20 percent capacity.

Studies show that with a lame heart, Manny may not last three years.

Manny does not smoke, drink or take prohibited drugs. Both his parents are free of heart disease. Incriminating evidence points to the culprit of his illness: air pollution.

Like Manny, most of us are exposed to the toxic air in Manila. Because we are among the top five most polluted cities in the world, we are at risk of developing heart and lung disease.

Study of major roads

Recently, the prestigious Lancet journal provided convincing evidence that air pollution leads to heart and lung disease and shortens our collective life spans.

Some experts believe that noxious air concentrations of sulfur oxides, nitrogen oxides and other pollutants cause inflammation of the blood vessels, resulting in the hardening of the arteries (atherosclerosis) and heart attacks, like in Manny's case.

In his fascinating study published in the Lancet, Dr. Gerard Hoek of the Netherlands found that those living near a major road (like our Edsa) have a higher risk of dying than the rest of the population. Hoek concluded that long-term exposure to traffic-related air pollution may shorten life expectancy.

Other studies have shown that exposure to air pollution is associated with heart attacks, life-threatening heart rhythms and thickening of the blood.

I saw the ill effects of air pollution among the 400 indigent patients we treat at the Pasay Filipino-Chinese Charity Health Center. For the past 12 years, this charity center, founded by philanthropists Ong Yong and Tecson H. Alonzo, has been giving free treatment to the poor people of Pasay and Cavite. Lately, we noticed an increasing majority of patients complaining of chronic, debilitating cough. Some are astute enough to point to the source: "Whenever we breathe bus fumes, we get this nagging terrible cough."

Test for lawmakers

The Clean Air Act of 1999 has been our one last hope. With the preponderance of scientific and common-sense evidence linking air pollution to death and disease, it is hard to comprehend why some people, even lawmakers, object to this lifesaving law.

Perhaps our lawmakers would like to take a simple test. They should get out of their air-conditioned cars and take a stroll on Edsa during rush hours and then see if they can withstand breathing the air for just an hour.

I assure you, in just 15 minutes, they would experience a slight chest heaviness (lack of oxygen in the heart), a certain dizziness (lack of oxygen in the brain), and faster breathing (tiny particulate matters sticking on the lung tissue).

As doctors, we constantly face many clinical tales like that of Manny. We are all slowly dying from air pollution.

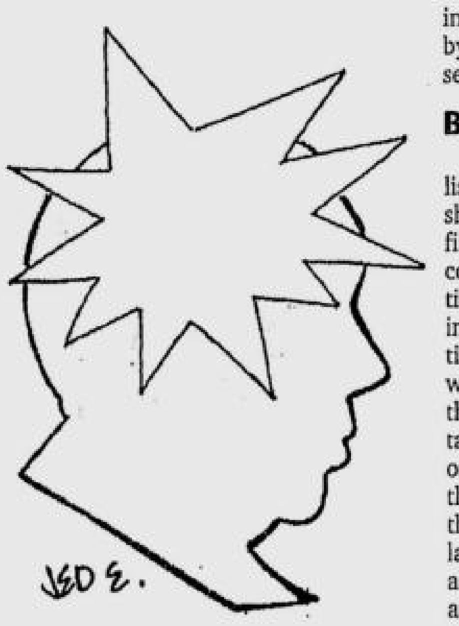
It is mind-boggling the way we muddle the issue and make it seem like a fight between interest groups. There are no factions here; we are all in the same boat.

For it involves the very air that we breathe, the same air that our children and our children's children will breathe. Air is life. And if we cannot even give our children a cleaner air, then we do not deserve to be called a father, a leader or a friend.

(Dr. Ong is a fellow of the Philippine College of Physicians and the Philippine College of Cardiology. E-mail comments to willietong@netasia.net.)

New Alzheimer's drug now available in RP

REMINYL, a new treatment for mild to moderate Alzheimer's disease (AD) is now available in the country. It was developed by the Janssen Research Foundation under a co-development and licensing agreement with UK-based Shire Pharmaceuticals Group Plc.



Clinical trials have shown that for many patients, treatment with Reminyl produces significant benefits in cognition (memory, attention and decision-making abilities) and overall function for at least one year. In addition, treatment with Reminyl can delay the emergence of behavioral disturbances in people with AD for at least five months.

"Reminyl offers new hope to patients and families affected by Alzheimer's disease," said Dr. Socorro Martinez, head of the Memory Center of the St. Lukes Medical Center. "With Reminyl, clinicians will be able to offer a treatment with proven benefits for all types of disabilities associated with AD, with the potential to improve the quality of life for both patients and their caregivers."

Dual action

Unlike other Alzheimer's treatments currently available, Reminyl, which is derived from daffodil bulbs, has a dual mechanism of action.

In addition to blocking the action of an enzyme that breaks down acetycholine (a critical neurotransmitter that is in short supply in the brains of Alzheimer's patients), laboratory research suggests that Reminyl acts on the brain's nicotinic receptors.

It is believed that the "modulation" of these receptors stimulates the release of more acetycholine. The significance of these findings for patients is not yet fully known and is being investigated further by the Janssen Research Foundation.

Benefits

Recently published research has shown that the benefits of Reminyl on cognition and activities of daily living—including patients' ability to wash, feed and dress themselves—are sustained for at least one year. In addition, the studies showed that Reminyl can delay the emergence of abnormal behavior associated with AD (such as extreme anxiety and uncontrolled wandering) for at least five months.

In turn, these benefits may relieve caregiver burden, resulting in a reduction of as much as one hour per day in time spent by caregivers in assisting and supervising patients with everyday task. For Filipinos, this is significant owing to the culture of highly extended families where old folks stay and are taken cared of by their children and grandchildren.

At least one in 20 adults aged 65 and older suffers from the disease. One study found that 47 percent of those over age 85 have Alzheimer's disease. Moreover, ranking only behind heart diseases and cancer, AD is the third most expensive illness in the United States, costing $100 billion a year.

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

Save the banana!

DISCOVER

Massie K. Santos

ON THEIR LAST trip to Florida, my parents did not go to Disneyworld. They did not go to Universal Studios. They did not go to Cape Canaveral and see a space shuttle take off. Instead they went to the Epcot Center, which, as Homer Simpson once pointed out, "is boring just flying over it."

But at the Epcot Center, my parents told me, is a place where exotic plants from all corners of the earth thrive. And proudly displayed there is a banana plant.

To be honest, I've never been to the Epcot Center, but this is how I imagine that place to be: "Yes, children," the signs seem to say as one moves closer to this fabled highlight, "this is where bananas come from. Not from a tree, although it's tall enough to be one. And we have it. Right here."

I write all this because apparently 11 years from now that's going to be the only way one will see a banana plant ever again.

No sex, no DNA mixing

According to French scientist Emile Frison, the head of an organization called the International Network for the Improvement of the Banana and Plantain, the number of bananas being exported from all over the world has declined dramatically over the last few years, in no small part due to the fact that these plants haven't had sex in thousands of years.

As we all know, no sex means no mixing of DNA, which means reduced ability to adapt to various environmental conditions such as disease. In this case, it's a fungus that reduced a banana plant's lifetime to three years instead of 30, and cuts the plant's annual yield by as much as 75 percent.

All these problems are heaped on a plant that, according to one legend, sprang from the heart of a ghost who became mortal for a year so that he could marry the woman he loved. When Sag-Ing's time on earth was up, he instructed his wife to bury his heart and tend it carefully. The banana plant sprang from the grave to provide food (the fruit), shelter (the leaves), and the knowledge that he was always with them (the banana heart).

I don't even know if a child born in 2014 will even ever taste the banana in all its lovely varieties. The little chiquititas, as I have heard the señoritas called, the *lakatan* and *latundan* that I will never be able to tell apart even on the pain of death, the *saba* that led to P45 million worth of *turon* and the inevitable banana cue, the green bananas that make banana cakes so tasty. Even the plantains that are long like the green bananas but used like the *saba*, although the taste is never quite the same.

Most importantly though, bananas are the most important ingredient in that most glorious condiment of all: banana ketchup.

Now we're getting to the heart of this column.

Joys of banana ketchup

When I was a young impressionable child, my oldest cousin introduced me to the joys of eating scrambled eggs with ketchup, and my world was never the same.

Depending on who was in charge of the weekly trip to the supermarket, the kitchen was alternately stocked with either tomato catsup (my parents or brother) or banana ketchup (me).

When I was in college, talk about banana ketchup always led to the question why it is not yellow.

My answer: Because ketchup is red, not yellow.

But maybe I'm overreacting to the prospect of a world without bananas and banana ketchup and banana splits and banana ketchup and physical comedy with people slipping on banana peels or getting banana cream pies thrown to their faces. Did I mention banana ketchup?

Sobering news

A world without bananas is pretty sobering news, but it also raises several questions.

Does Frison mean that all banana varieties will be gone in 10 years, or just the variety that is specifically considered the quintessential banana? And what exactly is the variety of said generic banana?

And if all banana plants are essentially clones of each other since they're not having sex, then why do we have so many varieties all over the world?

And can't we just genetically engineer more bananas and maybe teach them to have sex so we never have to deal with a crises of this magnitude again?

I'm ashamed to admit that I don't have the answers to any of these questions, nor do I know who I should be asking.

But someone out there reading this must have the answers. Someone out there must be able to tell me Frison is wrong, that bananas will still exist in 2015, and that I don't need to run out and start hoarding banana ketchup.

Please write to me and reassure me that Frison is lying. Or if he's not, tell me how we're going to save the bananas.

And please, tell me soon.

(The author may be reached at massie@massie.com.)

When hyperactivity in kids ceases to be normal

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

WHEN celebrity Kris Aquino came out in the open and said that her son, Joshua, was suffering from Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), many Filipinos realized that children they used to label as *sobrang malikot* (too fidgety) were actually sick and in need of special medical treatment.

But even with a greater awareness of ADHD, studies show that less than one percent of Filipino children suffering from it are actually diagnosed of the ailment.

Dr. Peter Joare, a member of the medical faculty of the University of Edinburgh and one of the leading authorities on ADHD, said global figures are just as bad, with only between 3 and 10 percent of children worldwide affected by ADHD getting diagnosed.

One of the reasons behind the low diagnosis rate is the lack of awareness of the disease and the fact that many of the symptoms can be dismissed as simple bad behavior and are thus left untreated.

More boys affected

ADHD is a psychiatric disorder characterized by inattention, hyperactivity and impulsivity that occur more frequently or severely compared to other children their age, thus affecting their performance in school or in social gatherings.

It was first diagnosed 100 years ago by George Still, an Englishman, who described it as a "disorder of moral control."

ADHD occurs more frequently in boys than in girls, with male to female ratios ranging from 4:1 to 9:1. It occurs across cultures as well as socioeconomic levels.

Symptoms occur before the age of 7.

Three types

There are three main types: inattentive, hyperactive/impulsive and a combination of the two.

Those considered primarily inattentive have difficulty following instructions, avoid or dislike tasks that require sustained mental effort, are easily distracted, do not appear to listen and have difficulty with organization.

The hyperactive/impulsive types fidget with hands or feet or squirm in their chair, have difficulty engaging in activities quietly, act as if driven by a motor, talk excessively, have difficulty waiting or taking turns and interrupt or intrude upon others.

The combined type shows symptoms of both types.

In an interview with the INQUIRER during his recent visit to Manila, Joare said some children suffering from ADHD outgrow these symptoms but as much as 50 to 60 percent of untreated children carry the disease up to adulthood.

"If left untreated, most ADHD sufferers would grow up to be at greater risk to substance abuse and then to road accidents because they are either inattentive or hyperactive/impulsive. Their sense of danger is also impaired," Joare said.

What causes ADHD?

The cause of ADHD is still unknown but a majority of research works on the disease suggest that it is caused by neurological and genetic factors.

Joare explained that children are normally born with some degree of inattention, hyperactivity and impulsivity but as their brain develops, controls are put in place to inhibit these behaviors to promote learning and motivation.

Joare said the chemicals that help the brain inhibit these behaviors are imbalanced in children and adults with ADHD.

Drugs like Concerta of Johnson & Johnson help correct this chemical imbalance. Unlike other drugs, Concerta is taken only once a day and is effective for about 12 hours.

Drugs, however, are not enough to cure ADHD. Joare said medicine should be combined with behavioral modification therapy to help a child overcome the debilitating effects of ADHD.

Hyperactive children have smaller brains

CHILDREN and adolescents who suffer from Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) have brains 3 to 4 percent smaller than average, a US study showed.

Exactly why this is so is not clear, but the researchers said the smaller brain volume does not appear to be related to the use of hyperactivity drugs as some parents had feared.

The finding, which was reported in the Journal of the American Medical Association, could be reassuring to parents in another respect as well: it suggests that hyperactivity is biological in origin, not a product of bad parenting.

The researchers said it appears that the brains of hyperactive children develop at a normal pace but never entirely catch up in size with the brains of other youngsters. However, they said, people with smaller brains are not necessarily less intelligent.

Other studies also have suggested biological differences in the brains of people with ADHD.

"It's a strong support for a very strong biological contribution to what causes ADHD," said one of the researchers, Dr. Judith Rapoport, chief of child psychiatry at the National Institute of Mental Health in Bethesda, Maryland.

The study found the disorder was associated with about a three percent to four percent decrease in volume throughout the brain.

The smaller their brains, the greater their symptoms.

"The first thought people have is that ADHD is a product of bad parenting" or that it is environmental, said Dr. Daniel Coury, a professor of clinical pediatrics at the Ohio State University College of Medicine.

"Having clear biological findings that this is something beyond the control of parents or the child helps remove that stigma," he said. AP

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

Typhoon names

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

TRIVIA games on TV were only a passing fancy, but text games still abound. For those interested in curious tidbits, the following names have been designated for tropical cyclones that enter the Philippine area of responsibility from 2001 to 2016.

But wait! How are typhoons given names?

At the turn of the century (around 1900), the Australian weatherman C. Wragge started the practice of giving cyclones female names which became so popular that Air Force and Navy forecasters used their wives' and girlfriends' names! (In the United States though, males are not exempt. In 1942, in fact, a storm was named after President Harry Truman and later, one after his wife, Bess.)

How did this practice develop here?

In 1946, three storms developed simultaneously in the western North-Pacific basin, a territory which includes the Philippines. The three typhoons were not given names, and were identified based on location. Confusion ensued because people did not know which storm was being discussed. After that, our forecasters decided to identify typhoons using names in alphabetical order.

4 sets every 4 years

According to Vicky Bartilet of the Science and Technology Information Institute: "The Philippine Weather Bureau adopted the system in 1963 by setting four groups of Filipino women's nicknames ending in "ng" from A to Y to name all tropical cyclones occurring within the Philippine area of responsibility. These four sets of names were then repeated every four years.

"In addition, each group was accompanied by an auxiliary list from A to G in the event that the number of typhoons occurring in a particular year exceeded the number of alphabet letters. The first tropical cyclone for the year always starts with the letter A, followed by B, and so on."

(Note that the revised Filipino alphabet consists of more than these letters—it incorporates letters such as c and z.)

However, I have to admit that I often get confused when local names are used. In this age of satellites, international news channels such as CNN track and name cyclones hours before we do. Why don't we just go with international names?

Disaster preparedness

"Our ultimate aim of issuing local names is to inform national and local disaster coordinating councils and the public of the presence of such cyclones and immediately enable them to implement their disaster preparedness plan and undertake necessary precautionary actions," explains Bernardo M. Soriano Jr., chief of Pagasa's Atmospheric, Geophysical and Space Science Branch.

Moreover, the Philippines also cooperated in the international naming system used by the World Meteorological Organization.

Dr. Soriano stressed that the new naming scheme led to the standardization of the usage of names for tropical cyclones in the region. The Philippines contributed the names Bilis, Cimaron, Danas, Hagibis, Hagupit, Imbudo, Lupit, Malakas and Talas while neighboring countries shared some to complete the revised International Tropical Cyclone Names.

This debate aside, the following is the list of typhoon names from 2001 to 2016. They were winning entries (from citizens) in a contest sponsored by Pagasa. In the coding system below, 2002 and 2006 will have the same typhoon names.

(The list also provides a good laugh: Dugong, Chedeng, Dagundong, Hunyango, anyone?)

Years 2001, 2005, 2009, 2013: Auring, Barok, Crising, Darna, Emong, Feria, Gorio, Huaning, Isang, Jolina, Kiko, Labuyo, Maring, Nanang, Ondoy, Pabling, Quedan, Roleta, Sibak, Talahib, Ubbeng, Vinta, Wilma, Yaning and Zuma.

Years 2002, 2006, 2010, 2014: Agaton, Basyang, Caloy, Dagul, Espada, Florita, Gloria, Hambalos, Inday, Juan, Kaka, Lagalag, Milenyo, Neneng, Ompong, Paeng, Quadro, Rapido, Sibasib, Tagbanwa, Usman, Venus, Wisik, Yayang and Zeny.

Years 2003, 2007, 2011, 2015: Amang, Batibot, Chedeng, Dodong, Egay, Falcon, Gilas, Harurot, Ineng, Juaning, Kabayan, Lakay, Manang, Niña, Onyok, Pogi, Quiel, Roskas, Sikat, Tisoy, Ursula, Viring, Wang-wang, Yoyoy and Zigzag.

Years 2004, 2008, 2012, 2016: Ambo, Biday, Cosme, Dugong, Enteng, Flor, Giling, Hataw, Inggo, Julian, Kenkoy, Lawin, Manoy, Nonoy, Osang, Pandoy, Quinta, Rigodon, Sigla, Totoy, Usa, Viajero, Wasiwas, Yoyong and Zosimo.

Hopefully, these are all the names needed. But with some foresight, the government also came up with this auxiliary list:

Group 1: Alamid, Bruno, Conching, Dolor, Ekis, Fuerza, Gimbal, Hampas, Isko and Juego.

Group 2: Agila, Bagwis, Ciriaco, Diego, Elena, Forte, Gunding, Hunyango, Itoy and Jessa.

Group 3: Abe, Berto, Charing, Danggit, Estoy, Fuego, Gening, Hantik, Irog and Joker.

Group 4: Alakdan, Baldo, Carayan, Dagundong, Estong, Fuerte, Gardo, Harabas, Ikot and Julio.

Doctors as social advocates

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

RECENTLY, we had a reunion of fraternity brods belonging to the Tau Mu Sigma Phi, which used to be the only recognized medical fraternity in the University of Santo Tomas.

After the usual reminiscing and small talk, Dr. Narciso "King" Santos, our batch's Exalted Brother who protected us from being brutally beaten during our initiation 28 years ago, brought up the issue about doctors being social advocates.

To this, Brods Mulong Buzon and Rey dela Cruz promptly added that we should not hesitate nor be embarrassed to take off our doctor's gowns, put down our stethoscopes and do non-medical things for society. We can do even small things such as ensuring proper garbage disposal, conducting traffic and supporting sincere and strong-willed government officials like Bayani Fernando in implementing simple laws and much-needed reforms.

My fraternity brods are not isolated cases. There are many healthcare professionals who feel the same way. This may be a sign of the times, and we take it as a healthy sign.

Jose Rizal was one of the first prominent Filipino physicians who could no longer see himself straitjacketed by the physician stereotype as nothing more than a professional in charge of healthcare delivery. Doing anything else was already overstepping the doctor's competence, many senior physicians used to admonish.

This used to be the thinking before. But gradually, probably forced by circumstances, the paradigm has shifted.

Restlessness

Doctors are now getting restless, which leads to two common courses of action.

The first is to jump ship and move out at any cost and no matter how uncertain the future in other countries (mainly the US) might be. This would suggest that no matter how uncertain the prospects are in other countries, they can't be any worse than the perennially uncertain future we have here.

Even well-established medical specialists who are doing well in their practice are taking up an accelerated course in nursing, and applying as nurses abroad.

"For the children's sake," they would quickly say to justify what they are doing. For many doctors the itch of some congressmen to push for the medical malpractice bill last year was the straw that broke the camel's back. It was their "sign from heaven" to ship out.

The second course of action that the majority has taken—myself included—is to stick it out here in the country, come what may.

But it's time to get actively involved. The stakes—including our children's, grandchildren's and great grandchildren's future—are simply too high. Remaining passive while many of our leaders continue to botch their jobs is too risky.

Social activists

We are glad to note that doctors and other healthcare workers are now more conscious about political and social issues. We cannot isolate ourselves from the sociopolitical ills besetting the country that impact significantly on health concerns. It's a vicious cycle that has to be broken one way or the other.

Doctors and allied professionals are not just health deliverers anymore. They have shifted their roles to become social advocates or even social activists. Many medical and allied organizations are starting to take a firm stand on various sociopolitical issues, especially if they concern health.

They no longer seek refuge on the middle ground. They no longer want to remain passive observers in the gallery.

Alliance formed

Recently a broad-based alliance of healthcare workers was formed with 750,000 members, according to my fraternity brods Doctors Tony Rebosa and Vic Lopez. If you include their families, you're talking here of some three million potential voters. So politicians are starting to listen. But that is beside the point.

What is important is that the group wants not only to be heard or be considered as a political force to reckon with but also to breathe on the backs of government officials who are too slow in doing things that were supposed to be completed yesterday, or last year, or probably a decade ago.

Tony, Vic and his wife, Dr. Menguita Padilla-Lopez, are vocal frontliners in the alliance. So is Dr. Jojo Carabeo of the Health Alliance for Democracy. Doctors Carol Pagaduan, Boying and Delen dela Paz have likewise been actively involved in their respective NGOs. Our cardiologist-mentor HB Calleja has decided to run again for president of the Philippine Medical Association to lead the PMA in taking more decisive action.

Dr. Ed Clemente and former Health Secretary Jimmy Galvez-Tan are two other physician-social advocates who raise the healthcare professionals' social consciousness every now and then with their incisive discussions on social advocacy in their medical columns.

All of these doctors keep the torch burning for the medical community.

Just like Rizal, many doctors have cast their lot to help address the nation's sociopolitical ills. Rizal paid for it dearly with his life. Many healthcare professionals hope it will not require that extreme sacrifice; but some I've talked to seem to be prepared to do the same if that is needed to institute meaningful reforms that will change not just the country's discouraging health condition but also the nation's destiny.

The doctors and healthcare professionals have finally awakened from a long sleep.

Promoting brain dev't beyond growing-up years

A CHILD'S growing-up years produce some of the biggest wonders parents can experience. Starting from birth, a baby's development can be so rapid and fascinating that it will be the stuff of fond memories that last a lifetime.

Wonders

There's the amazement that accompanies the first few steps, the first uttered syllables that eventually turn into audible words, and the first attempts at play and coordination.

These wonders are by no means limited to the firsts. The child's early grapple and success with drawings, numbers and words, especially when they seem too surprising for his age, give parents a deep sense of accomplishments. These developments are influenced greatly by the child's upbringing and inherent intelligence, and may be enhanced by nutritional factors that are present in what he or she eats and drinks.

Nutritional intake

With so much going for the child, parents should continuously support his growth by providing sufficient attention, encouragement and most importantly proper nutritional intake. This last preferably involves the vital component that enhances brain development, Docosahexaenoic Acid or DHA. It is present in a formulated milk supplement called Enfakid, which was developed by Mead Johnson, one of the world's leading names in infant formulas, for kids 3-6 years old or those at the preschool level.

Even if the brain's critical window of development is within the first three years of life, parents are encouraged to continue giving DHA even way beyond, well into adolescence. The reason is that the brain continues to grow and build up neuro-connections, a process that DHA, as a long chain polyunsaturated fatty acid that is the primary building block of the human brain and retinal tissue, helps stimulate.

Preschool kids can obtain this health ingredient through DHA-rich Enfakid. Older children, however, can turn to fish oil, organ meats and eggs that are also abundant in DHA. Being one of the most important ingredients for brain development, DHA should be continually adequately supplied for the child, guaranteeing many more growing-up wonders for his parents' pride and the child's own personal progress.

Cloned cat hardly like original

COLLEGE STATION, Texas—Rainbow the cat is a typical calico with splotches of brown, tan and gold on white. Cc, her clone, has a striped gray coat over white.

Rainbow is reserved. Cc is curious and playful.

Rainbow is chunky. Cc is sleek.

Wayne Pacelle of the Humane Society might be incl ined to say: I told you so. But then, so would cc's creators at Texas A&M University.

Sure, you can clone your favorite cat. But the copy will not necessarily act or even look like the original.

Cc (for carbon copy) is just over a year old. Her birth on Dec. 22, 2001 was big news when it was announced in February last year because it was the first time a household pet had been cloned. Previous mammal clones were barnyard animals like cows and goats.

Cc's creation was funded by Genetic Savings & Clone, a company that hopes to make money from people's desires to duplicate their favorite pets.

But people who hope cloning will resurrect a pet will be disappointed, said Duane Kraemer, one of A&M's animal cloning experts.

Not duplication

Experts say environment is as important as genes in determining a cat's personality.

And as far as appearance is concerned, having the same DNA as another calico cat doesn't always produce the same coat pattern.

"This vindicates the opposition we espoused from the beginning, that cloning does not lead to duplication," said Pacelle, senior vice president of the Humane Society of the United States.

"Not only does cloning not produce a physical duplicate, but it can never reproduce the behavior or personality of a cat that you want to keep around."

RAINBOW, left, nuzzles the ear of her clone "cc," for "carbon copy," on a table at Texas A&M University earlier this month in College Station, Texas, a little more than a year after cc's birth. AP

More research needed

Although cc's arrival sparked a deluge of calls from pet owners, more research is needed to figure out how to produce consistently healthy clones before the company can start doing it commercially, said Ben Carlson, the company's spokesman.

There is a demand from dog lovers, but scientists so far have been unable to clone a canine.

In fact, cc's creation was the result of a dog lover, not a cat lover.

University of Phoenix founder John Sperling wanted a duplicate of his collie mix, Missy. With his $3.7 million, Texas A&M launched the "Missyplicity" project over four years ago.

Missy has since died and Sperling has redirected his funding to the Genetic Savings & Clone, which he hopes will one day deliver a clone of Missy.

Unable to resurrect pets

Carlson said the company tells pet owners that cloning won't resurrect their pet and that the company has turned away some customers.

"In the short term, it's easy to exploit that misperception," he said. "But in the long term, it's unethical, and the pet owner will quickly find that, 'Hey, this isn't Fluffy, this puppy doesn't recognize me or know all the old tricks.'"

However, he said cloning could reproduce what a pet owner considers to be exceptional genes, particularly from an animal with unknown parentage or one that has been spayed or neutered.

As for cc, the Texas scientists say she has shown no signs of genetic defects.

"She's been perfectly healthy and perfectly a cat ever since her birth," Kraemer said.

Even so, cc has been protected by a sterile environment, a precaution to make sure she is healthy. She eventually will move with Kraemer and his wife. In time, they plan to breed cc, but they are looking for just the right tom. *AP*

Lilly, Boehringer unite vs urinary ills, depression

INDIANAPOLIS, US—Eli Lilly and Co. and Boehringer Ingelheim have signed a long-term agreement to jointly market worldwide deloxetine for the treatment of stress urinary incontinence (SUI) among women and Cymbalta (duloxetine hydrochloride) for the treatment of depression.

Urinary incontinence is a disease that affects as many as 30 percent to 40 percent of women worldwide, with SUI as the most common form. SUI is the involuntary leakage of urine brought on by stress or pressure upon the bladder as a result of physical activities, such as laughing, coughing, sneezing, lifting or exercising.

Risk factors

The most common risk factors for SUI are vaginal childbirth, obesity, smoking, constipation and chronic physical stress. The current therapies for SUI include pelvic muscle exercises and surgery as there are no globally approved pharmaceutical treatments.

Duloxetine, a potent, balanced dual reuptake inhibitor of both serotonin and norepinephrine, is being studied for the treatment of stress urinary incontinence and depression. In clinical trials for the treatment of SUI, duloxetine 80 mg when taken as 40 mg twice a day, significantly reduced the frequency of incontinence episodes compared with placebo and was generally well tolerated.

"We believe that the combined resources of this partnership will allow us to maximize the value of the molecule and will result in a greater return to Lilly's shareholders than had we commercialized it on our own," said John C. Lechleiter, Ph.D., Lilly executive vice president of pharmaceutical products and corporate development. "With this collaboration, we gain a strong and experienced partner in the urology market who will help increase awareness of stress urinary incontinence and the significant benefits that duloxetine could provide as the potentially first globally available pharmaceutical treatment for women suffering from this chronic condition."

Perfect match

"We see this close cooperation as a perfect match for our two companies," said Dr. Alessandro Banchi, member of the BI board of managing directors.

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

Said Banchi: "We are proud to work jointly together with Lilly in establishing a new effective drug treatment option for stress urinary incontinence, at present a highly underdiagnosed and undertreated condition that affects millions of women. This adds a promising long-term perspective to our existing urology franchise, which over the last years we built very successfully with tamsulosin (Flomax, Pradif, Alna), today the most widely prescribed alpha blocker for treatment of lower-urinary-tract symptoms due to benign prostatic hyperplasia. We are also very active in drug treatment of disorders of the central nervous system, such as Parkinson's disease. Cymbalta fits nicely into our marketing and sales experience."

Treating depression

In clinical trials for the treatment of depression, duloxetine 60 mg once daily (brand name Cymbalta) relieved symptoms of depression, such as low mood, anxiety and physical symptoms associated with depression like aches and pains.

Moreover, study patients who took Cymbalta were more likely to have complete resolution of their symptoms than patients on placebo. There are significant unmet medical needs in the antidepressant market as more than two-thirds of patients using current therapies will not fully recover and at least one in three patients does not complete an appropriate course of therapy.

Statins as new super aspirins

By Kathy Alcala
Contributor

ASPIRINS and statins deserve to be in the hall of fame for cardiovascular drugs, if ever there's one.

Heart specialists recognize the important contributions of these two drugs in improving the clinical outcome of patients with established heart disease or those considered at high-risk in developing cardiovascular complications.

Aspirin prevents the blood from getting sticky leading to blood clots which cause heart attack and stroke. As small a dose as 80 mg daily—what used to be called pediatric dose—has been shown by various clinical trials to be effective in reducing heart attacks, strokes and heart-related deaths. Some studies suggest that it might also be good in preventing some types of cancers.

New super aspirins

Statins, a cholesterol-lowering class of drugs, is now labeled as the new super aspirins.

Clinical data over the last 10 years have shown that tens of thousands of deaths each year may be prevented with the use of the statins.

Heart experts worldwide are calling for a major change in treatment guidelines recommending statins in high-risk patients even if their blood cholesterol levels are just slightly elevated or still within normal limits. It is predicted that the results of recent landmark trials are set to revolutionize the way cholesterol-lowering drugs are prescribed.

Available scientific data published in prestigious international journals show that using statin drugs to lower blood cholesterol levels protects a far wider range of people at risk of heart attacks and strokes than had been previously shown.

Strong evidence

According to Dr. Roberto Raymundo, a diplomate in cardiology and a fellow of the Philippine Heart Association and the Philippine College of Cardiology, the statins are often prescribed previously only to people who have heart disease and elevated cholesterol levels.

But, with the new findings from the 20,000-patient Heart Protection Study (HPS) conducted in the United Kingdom, he believes that there is now strong evidence showing that statins also cut the risks of heart attacks and strokes in the high-risk population which includes patients with diabetes, narrowing of arteries in their legs, and a history of heart attack or stroke. Simvastatin was used in the HPS.

"Even those high-risk patients considered to have normal or low cholesterol levels benefited from the use of simvastatin," adds Dr. Raymundo, cardiology consultant at the Manila Adventist Medical Center. He supports the recommendation that guidelines should be changed so that irrespective of the blood cholesterol level, a statin is considered for anybody at increased risk of either heart attacks or strokes.

Urgent review

Heart experts worldwide share the same sentiments on the potential benefits from a wider use of statins. "The clear message from this study (HPS) is: Treat risk—not cholesterol level," emphasizes Prof. Sir Charles George, medical director of the British Heart Foundation, the UK's leading heart charity. He calls for an urgent review of national and international guidelines on statin use by government organizations, such as the National Institute of Clinical Excellence (NICE) in the UK and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the US, as well as by professional bodies, such as the European Society of Cardiology and the American Heart Association.

The HPS, which is by far the biggest clinical trial on cholesterol-lowering therapy, contradicts conventional wisdom in a number of other areas. Current guidelines maintain that there is no sufficient evidence that statins benefit the elderly population. With a large number of older patients enrolled in the study, the researchers were able to show that cholesterol-lowering with simvastatin was just as effective for the over 70s as for those in the middle-age and younger-age group.

Likewise, the issue on the benefits and safety of statins in women has been answered convincingly, according to Dr. Raymundo. With more than 5,000 women included in the HPS, it has shown that statins work just as well for women as for men.

"I thought I'll never celebrate another birthday after my heart attack. With my anti-cholesterol statin*, I'm looking forward to more candles to blow."

-Zenaida Fortes
Senior Accountant
Heart-attack victim

☑ Check with your doctor the new affordable statin*...

Recent landmark trials have shown the beneficial effects of the cholesterol-lowering drug known as statins.[1]
Statins help prolong lives, lower heart-related deaths, prevent heart attacks and strokes...
only IF they are taken for at least 3 years, religiously.[2]
COST of statins though is a big barrier to compliance.

Now for Life!

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HOUSE & LOT

KALOOCAN

CAMARIN Cal City LA240m² FA104m² 2Bdrms 1T&B P1.2M Vic/Gie 8903461 loc. 27

LAS PINAS

58 Sqm 2 Stry 2Bdrm Villa Thomas 1 Mwalk LPnas 0919-6056686

MAKATI

300 sqm w/ 3DR apt & w/imp P 5.5 M neg Call 7337505

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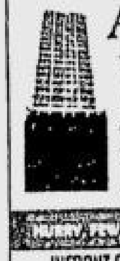

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QUEZON CITY

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California Gardens Square
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NO DOWN P2.1M P17K M/A
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LOT

KALOOCAN

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PASIG

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LOT

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✣IBA, ZAMBALES 10has 40M 500meters nr beach 09192221766

✣IBA, ZAMBALES 10has 45M nr hway titled 0919-2221766

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BATANGAS

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CAVITE

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LAGUNA

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•Calamba Lots (6400m²) along Provincial concrete Road 150meters frontage w/ relocation map P500/m² Please Call Mr. Victor Osena Cell No. 09164989021

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PASIG

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SAN JUAN

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MAKATI

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MANILA

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'00 Lancer GLX A/T 1st owner 370T neg Call 2400438 ; 09178428226

Rush '96LncrEL 178T 4752630

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BOARD OF INVESTMENTS

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of **CA TELEMARKETING, INC.** with office address at **Room 405-408 Jocfer Building, Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City** for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as Amended, as **New ICT-Enabled Service Firm – Customers Contact Centers (Telemarketing)** with project site at same office address stated above has been officially accepted on **December 23, 2002.**

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

Issued this 23rd day of October 2002.

(Sgd.) **FRANCISCO C. CHAVEZ**
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI - Jan. 25, 2003)

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NOTICE OF LOSS

DR. ANANIAS A. CORNEJO lost S2 ID#14940N98

DR. GODOFREDO GODOY lost S2 ID#7603R001142

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

Lost Stock Certificate Jollibee Cert.#086372 3,000 shares under Jennifer Fong (PDI-Jan.11, 18 & 25, 2003)

AUCTION SALE

Nuestra-Damus Pawnshop
Makati City
Auction Sale on February 6, 2003 all unredeemed pledges during the month of September 1-30, 2002. Nuestra Br. II Pio-9:30am; Nuestra Br. I 10:30am; Damus Pasong Tamo-12:30pm; Nuestra Main -1:30pm; Nuestra Br. IX Zapote 3:00pm.
Sons of J. Lanuza Auctioneer

NUESTRA-DIAJADE PAWNSHOP
LAS PINAS METRO MANILA
Will have its auction sale on February 07, 2003. All unredeemed pledges during the month of September 1-31, 2002. Nuestra Br. IV-8:30am; Diajade Main-9:30am; Diajade Br. II-10:30am; Diajade Br. I-1:00pm.
Sons of J. Lanuza Auctioneer

PERSONAL

Dear DANNIE,
I Love You very much honey Meet you at the altar. P.S. I'm the one wearing white. **Love, KRITS**

Thank you so much Blessed Mother for granting my wish · MALOU

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BUREAU OF FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES

List of Vacant Positions

As of January 22, 2003

POSITION	Qualification Standards			Eligibility
	Education	Relevant Experience	Relevant Training	
One (1) Attorney IV (Item No. BFARB-ATY4-9-1999); SG-23	Bachelor of Laws	2 years of relevant experience	8 hours of relevant training	R.A. 1080
Two (2) Legal Officer III (Item No. BFARB-LEGO3-9-1999) SG-20 and (Item No. BFARB-LEGO3-9-1999) SG-20	Bachelor of Laws	1 year of relevant experience	4 hours of relevant training	R.A. 1080

Applicants must not be more than 40 years old. Interested applicants may present their credentials and report for interview at the Legal Division at the above address.

(Sgd.) **MALCOLM I. SARMIENTO, JR.**
Director

(PDI - Jan. 25, 2003)

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REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
PASEGURUHAN NG MGA NAGLILINGKOD SA PAMAHALAAN
(GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM)
LUNGSOD NG QUEZON SANGAY II (SIBILYAN)
Diliman, Lungsod ng Quezon
1101

IN-HOUSE BIDDING COMMITTEE (IHBC)
(GSIS Quezon City Branch Office)

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM (GSIS) Quezon City Branch Office invites all general contractors to pre-qualify and bid for the construction of the proposed GSIS Quezon City Branch Office Building.

Interested general contractors with Inter-Agency Committee (IAC) classification of at least "AAA" (for buildings and infrastructures) and Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) license of category "AAA" may participate in this public bidding upon submission of their formal Letter of Interest and after passing pre-qualification and accreditation phase of this public bidding.

Interested contractors may secure the pre-qualification checklists and standard GSIS accreditation forms from the Physical Resource Section, Administrative Division at the 4th Floor, PCA Annex Bldg., Commonwealth Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City during regular office hours starting **January 23, 2003.**

Deadline for submission of pre-qualification documents shall be on **February 3, 2003.** Pre-qualified contractors shall be informed of the schedule of the pre-bid conferences and the actual public bidding by registered mail.

The GSIS reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any defects or formalities therein, and to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the System.

(Sgd.) **ANGELINA A. PATINO**
IHBC, Chairperson
GSIS-QCBO

(PDI - Jan 18, 25 & Feb 2, 2003)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Department of Science and Technology
Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA)
ASIATRUST Bank Bldg., 1424 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City 1104

MAKIISA SA ADHIKAING PILIPINO
STAND Philippines 2000

20 January 2003

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Please be informed that effective **January 15, 2003**, PAGASA head office has moved to its new office address from 1424 ATB Building, Quezon Avenue, to this address:

Science Garden Complex, Agham Road (formerly BIR Road), Diliman, Quezon City. Tel. Nos. 926-3167; 926-3151; 434-2436.

The Management

(PDI - Jan. 25, 2003)

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Zamboanga A. E. Colleges, located in Zamboanga City seeks candidates for the position of Chief Academic Officer. ZAEC is the largest tertiary higher education institution in Zamboanga City specializing in degree and non-degree courses at the associate, bachelor and graduate levels. Most of the programs have been granted Level I and Level II accreditation by the PACUCOA.

The Chief Academic Officer shall report directly to the Chief Executive Officer. Responsibilities include the overall management of 7 academic departments serving 13,000 students, budget preparation, curriculum review and development and state of the art technology, strategic planning, promoting a collegial environment and participation in academic-related senior management decision-making. Governance is team-oriented, lean, collaborative and fast-paced. The successful candidate shall provide strategic leadership for the development and delivery of educational programs of the highest quality for a dynamic college and identifying potentials for academic collaboration both within and outside the college.

Candidate should have broad leadership experience in private and public college/university management and significant academic credentials. The candidate should possess a PhD or EdD academic qualification. The College offers an excellent benefit package and salary commensurate with qualifications and experience.

For confidential consideration, please send resumé and letter of intent to:

Search Committee for CAO
Human Resources Department
Zamboanga A. E. Colleges
Zamboanga City 7000

Tel: 062-991-1135
Fax: 062-991-1826
E-mail: fligayo@zaec.edu.ph
www.zaec.edu.ph

MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES, INC.
Basement, MWSI Bldg., MWSS Complex
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, Philippines 1100
Tel. Nos. (632) 926-3597, 435-2244, 920-5521 loc. 3044

FINAL NOTICE OF CLAIM

To date, the following have not attended to their Severance Pay claim provided for under the Concession Agreement between MWSS and MWSI:

Alegre, Rosendo
Araquel, Benjamin
Arcilla, Joselito
Avanceña, Virgilio
Bacani, Nestor
Bautista, Armano
Bocalbos, Ma. Theresa
Bonzon, Eliseo
Caringal, Romeo
Crisostomo, Cristobal
Dela Cruz, Pio
Delos Reyes, Nestor
Dolot, Alberto
Domingo, Albano, Jr.
Fallorina, Isidro
Fernandez, Ronelo
Galang, Danilo
Guttierez, Ramon
Hipolito, Mariano
Lido, Alberto
Lumanlan, Genaro
Mangulabnan, Raul
Mendoza, Enrique
Molinar, Romeo
Monarca, Mila Mae
Morales, Edilberto
Pates, Jocelyn
Patulot, Marcianito
Ramos, Aida
Sermino, Macario
Torio, Orlando
Villanueva, Fernando
Villanueva, Melito

The said claim shall be processed in accordance with the MWSI Policy on 'Payment of Severance Pay'. Submission of necessary documents shall be until April 15, 2003. Any claim filed after the set deadline shall no longer be given due course.

For details on requirements to be submitted, please coordinate with Ms. Cristina L. Santiago or Gloria S. David at telephone nos. 926-3597 and 435-2244 of HR Services, Administration.

GITEC CONSULT GmbH
P.O. Box 32 04 46, D-40419, Dusseldorf, Germany

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Health has received a grant from the Federal Government of Germany through Kreditanstalt fur Wiederaufbau (KFW) and it is intended that the part of the proceeds of this grant be applied to eligible payments under the contract for **"Cold Chain Equipment for the Expanded Programme on Immunization in the Philippines."**

GITEC Consult GMBH now invites on behalf of the Department of Health of the Philippines sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of the following:

Lot 1 - Cold Rooms with Generators

3 -Cold Rooms, big (30cbm)
10 -Cold Rooms, small (20cbm)
13 -Standby Generators
13 -Voltage Regulators
13 -Temperature Recorder

Lot 2 - Refrigerators, Freezers and Cold Boxes

323 -Freezer (Deep Freezer) - 170 ltr
147 -Refrigerator (Ice-lined) - 170 ltr
98 -Refrigerator (Ice-lined) - 60 ltr
207 -Freezer (Ice Packs Freezers)
541 -Voltage Regulator (Ref & Freezers)
308 -Cold box -20 ltr
14,784 -Ice Packs - 0.6 ltr
934 -Thermometer (Ref & Freezer)
1 lot Spare Parts

The bids shall include the supply, delivery (to final destination), installation of equipments as well as the users' training. The delivery schedule is expected within year 2003. Bidders may bid for one or more lots, and contracts may be awarded for one or more complete lots.

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address mentioned below and upon payment of nonrefundable fee in the form of cash, PhP10,000, on **February 3-17, 2003** from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Interested qualified bidders in the Philippines will be guided by the following:

Inspect and secure bid documents at:
GITEC CONSULT (MLA. OFFICE)
116-A Scout Limbaga, Brgy. Sacred Heart
Quezon City, Philippines
Tels. 925-2478; 929-0273
Fax No. 927-8386
E-mail: gitecmla@pacific.net.ph

Submit bid to:
GITEC CONSULT GMBH
P.O. Box 32 04 46
40 419 Dusseldorf, Germany
Tel. (0049-211) 4408-254
Fax (0049-211) 4408-204
E-mail:gitec@gitec-consult.de

Bid must be delivered to the office address in Germany on or before 10.00 hours of April 22, 2003. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of 2% of the total bid price. Bids will be opened immediately after the closing of the submission of bids in the presence of the bidders' representatives who chose to attend.

(Sgd.) **MARIA CORAZON B. NUBLA, MBA, MPA, DPA**
Local Procurement and Logistics Officer

(PDI-January 18 and 25, 2003)

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Benita Nuñez Maronilla-Ortiz

MD, FPAOO
UST Medicine Class '52

Widow of the late Manuel Matias Maronilla, Jr.

died in the grace of our Lord at the
Southwest Herman Memorial Hospital, Houston, Texas
on January 18, 2003, Saturday at 3:00 p.m. at the age of 77.

She is survived by her husband **Dr. Ricardo T. Ortiz**; children & sons-/daughter-in-law: **Ma. Juliana (Jaye) Maronilla, Ma. Bernardita (Maita)** & **Andy Reyes, Christine** & **Camilo Dumlao, Cecille Maronilla, Nolette** & **Rey Tan Boringot, Manuel Vincent (Noel) Maronilla III, John Anthony** & **Lina Maronilla**; grandchildren: **Christina Maronilla; Andrea, Bernard Jose** & **Kamyl Reyes; Pamela, Nicholas** & **Gabriel Dumlao; Lawrence, Micaella, Lorraine, Leeandro, Meynardo** & **Matt Ryan Boringot; Lianne** & **Patricia Maronilla**; sisters & brothers-in-law: **Lolly** & **Lading Firmacion, Luz** & **Flor Dungo, Polly Nery**; sister-in-law **Luz Nuñez**; uncle **Jose Macalincag**; & aunt **Leonor Macalincag**.

Her remains will lie in state from January 26, 2003, Sunday, at the Santuario de San Jose Chapel, Greenhills. Interment will be on January 29, 2003 Wednesday, at The Heritage Park, Fort Bonifacio, M-Mla, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

The family request the pious readers to pray to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

"You will always be in our hearts, Daddy"

In Loving Memory

On the First Death Anniversary of

Col. Teodorico P. Sanchez, Sr. (Ret.) USMA '54

March 10, 1929 - January 26, 2002

His loving wife **Elvie**; children **Beth, Jun & Sansan, Ray & Arlene, Lyn & Luke, Rose & John, Cel Edmond & Malou, JJ, Mawel**; grandchildren **Abi, Ringo, Justin, Earl, Avie, Nina, Andie, Ryan** and **Joshua** request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

Holy Masses will be offered **tomorrow, Sunday, January 26, 2003** at the following churches:

Our Lady of Atonement **Baguio Cathedral** Baguio City	8:00 am 10:00 am	**Mt. Carmel Shrine** New Manila, Quezon City	8:00 am
		Mt. Carmel Crypt New Manila, Quezon City	9:00 am
St. Joseph Parish Pacdal, Baguio	8:00 am 10:00 am 11:00 am	**Divine Saviour Parish** Archer St., North Fairview, Q.C.	7:30 am
St. Vincent Ferrer Parish Naguilian Rd., Baguio City	7:30 am 8:30 am 10:30 am	**Parish of the Good Shepherd** Regalado Ave., Fairview, Q.C.	6:00 am
Our Lady of Lourdes Church Kisad Rd., Baguio City	8:00 am 10:00 am	**St. Pius X Catholic Chapel** AFPMC, V. Luna Rd., Q.C.	6:30 am
St. Ignatius Chapel All Sunday Masses PMA, Fort Del Pilar, Baguio City		**St. Ignatius Cathedral**	7:30 am
Convent of the Most Blessed Sacrament Brent Rd., Baguio City	7:30 am	**Parish of San Pedro de Alcantara** Pakil, Laguna	8:30 am

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In Loving Memory

First Death Anniversary of

PERLA "PEARL" DORADO ABELLA

So lovingly remembered, so sadly missed by those who hold her dear,
and cherish her in their hearts; in faith, hope and love, we trust
that the Lord has granted her the gift of eternal glory.

On Monday, January 27, 2003, the holy sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for her at

6:00 a.m. – Parish of the Resurrection, *BF Homes, Parañaque City*
6:30 a.m. – Carmelite Monastery, *Roxas City*
6:45 a.m. – Redemptorist Church, *Baclaran, Parañaque City*
7:30 a.m. – Immaculate Conception Metropolitan Cathedral, *Roxas City*
5:00 p.m. – Presentation of the Child Jesus Parish (special mass)
(Daily novena masses started last Sunday, January 19th)
5:45 p.m. – Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish Church, *Roxas City* (special mass)
6:00 p.m. – Don Bosco Parish Church, *Makati City*
– National Shrine of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, *Makati City*
– Sanctuario de San Antonio, *Makati City*
– Immaculate Concepcion Parish Church, Cubao, *Quezon City*
– St. Jerome Emiliani & St. Susana Parish, *Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City*
– Sta. Cruz Church, *Sta. Cruz, Manila*
6:30 p.m. – St. Andrew the Apostle Parish Church, *Bel-Air Village, Makati City*
– St. James the Great Parish Church, *Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City*

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever. – ***Psalm 23:6***

"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die.
God made us for this very reason
and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee
that we will live again."
2 Corinthians 5:4-5

LEODEGARIO M. GOCO

Died on January 24, 2003 at the age of 87.

His loving wife **Ligaya**; children **Leo Jr.** & **Josie, Nory** & **Eppie, Ray** & **Lynn, Benito** & **Tess**, and **Mae** & **Boying**; grandchildren, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at St. Alphonsus de Liguori Chapel, Magallanes Village, Makati City.

Interment will be announced later.

In Loving Memory
of

EDITHA MONASTERIO PULIDO

On The 15th Anniversary of Her Birth To Eternal Life
(6 June 1934 – 25 January 1988)

The **EDITHA MONASTERIO PULIDO MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, INC.** and her family request the pious reader to pray for her eternal repose.

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even if he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Matthew 10:39

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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1305 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City; Tel. 732-0309; 732-1095
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Poblacion, San Miguel, Bulacan 3011; Tels. (044) 764-0281; 678-0266; (0917) 895-0803
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OUR LADY OF PEACE MEMORIAL PARK, CHAPEL and SERVICES, INC.
No. 6 Carigma St., Antipolo City 1870;
Tel. No. 6970282; 6507426; 6970026; Fax No. 6972764
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438 Cementina St., Pasay City; Tels. 831-1204
Sucat Branch: 8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels. 826-1376; 826-9682; (0915) 712-1220
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park, Makati City; Tel. Nos. 843-8838/30; Fax No. 843-9223
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City; Telefax 724-4130; 725-2044
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City; Tels. 852-8228; 852-7284
ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
16-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila; Tels. 749-3879; 781-1772
ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
296 Quezon Ave., Quezon City; Tels. 372-5084; 410-9286/87
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In Loving Memory
On the
22ND DEATH ANNIVERSARY
of

MARIANO B. PEÑAFLORIDA

who passed away on 26 January 1981

Masses will be offered on Sunday, 26 January 2003 at the following:

Sanctuario de San Antonio *Forbes Park*	12:15 NN
Sanctuario de San Jose *Greenhills*	7:15 AM
St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori *Magallanes*	6:00 PM
Our Lady of Beautiful Love *Merville*	6:00 PM
Parish of the Holy Sacrifice *U.P.*	6:00 PM
St. Joseph's Church *Pototan, Iloilo*	5:30 AM
St. Clement's Church *La Paz, Iloilo*	5:30 PM

The family requests relatives, friends, and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

"From darkness let the light shine!"
Genesis 1:3

FREDDIE V. ORTIZ

of Roxas City

Peacefully joined his Creator on January 22, 2003.

His body lies in state at Chapel H of Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

His remains will be cremated on January 25, 2003, 4:00 p.m. at Loyola Memorial Chapels Crematorium, Guadalupe, Makati City.

His family request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

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In Loving Memory
of the
2nd Death Anniversary
of

RODOLFO "BABE" O. DESIDERIO

who passed away on January 25, 2001

His loving wife **Gloria**, daughter **Geraldine**, son-in-law **Ian Garcia**, grandchildren **Igi**, **Isa** and **Ino**, sister **Juliana Carmen Desiderio Villareal**, sister-in-law **Caridad Sison Desiderio**, nephews and nieces request your prayers for the Eternal repose of his soul.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass shall be offered at the following churches:

National Shrine of Mary Help of Christians *Parañaque City*	7:00 a.m.
St. Andrew The Apostle Church *Bel-Air, Makati City*	12:15 p.m.
St. Joseph Cathedral, *Balanga, Bataan*	6:30 a.m.
Bukid Chapel – Holy Trinity Parish *Doña Carmen Heights., Quezon City* (January 26, 2003)	10:00 a.m.
Holy Trinity Parish *Ideal Subdivision, Quezon City*	6:00 a.m.
Good Shepherd Parish *Fairview, Quezon City*	6:00 a.m.
St. Peter Parish *Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City*	6:00 a.m.
San Roque Parish, *Caloocan City*	7:30 a.m.
Our Lady of Grace Parish *Grace Park, Caloocan City*	6:45 a.m.
Mary Help of Christian Parish *Maypajo, Caloocan City*	6:00 a.m.
Ermita Parish Church, *Ermita, Manila*	8:00 a.m.
Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene *Quiapo, Manila*	10:00 a.m.
Sanctuario de San Jose *Greenhills East, Mandaluyong City*	7:15 a.m.

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GENCO 6

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

G6-2003-001

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) - GENCO 6 invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements:

SCHEDULE		ITEM/DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER
		DATE OF BIDDING: FEB. 20, 2003; 10:00 AM	
A1	1 LOT	WO' REFURBISHMENT OF POWER TRANSFORMER OF UNIT NOS. TGPP PLANTS ABC	3 TIW-02-0089
		DATE OF BIDDING: MARCH 05, 2003; 2:00 PM	
B1	12 PCS	PROXIMITY PROBE AND SEVEN (7) OTHER PARTS OF BENTLY NEVADA	3 TIW-02-0057
		DATE OF BIDDING: MARCH 06, 2003; 10:00 AM	
C1	1 LOT	JO' REPAIR REHAB OF PAGING SYSTEM AT MAKBAN GPP PLANT C	3 MAK-02-0554
C2	1 SET	GENERATOR PURGING GAS MONITORING SYSTEM	3 TIW-02-003
		DATE OF BIDDING: MARCH 06, 2003; 2:00 PM	
D1	2PCS.	SOLENOID VALVE FOR TURBINE TRIP AND STEM FREE VALVE	3 MAK-02-0532

NOTE: A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held at the SLRO Bidding Room for the following bidding schedules on:

1) A1 - FEBRUARY 3, 2003; 10:00 am
2) C2 - FEBRUARY 3, 2003; 2:00 pm
3) C1 - FEBRUARY 3, 2003; 4:00 pm

Complete sets of Application Form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from Procurement, Traffic and Warehousing Services (PTWS) Section, Administration Division, GENCO 6, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00 starting January 29, 2003. No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the SLRC Bidding Room, NPC-SLRC, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna on the date and time specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with "Executive Order 40".

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit - One percent (1%), Bank Guarantee - One and a half percent (1.5%), Surety Bond - Two and a half percent (2.5%), penal and callable on demand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

NPC-GENCO 6 reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

(Sgd.) R. H. HERRERA
Chairman - BAC

(PDI - Jan. 25 & Feb. 2, 2003)

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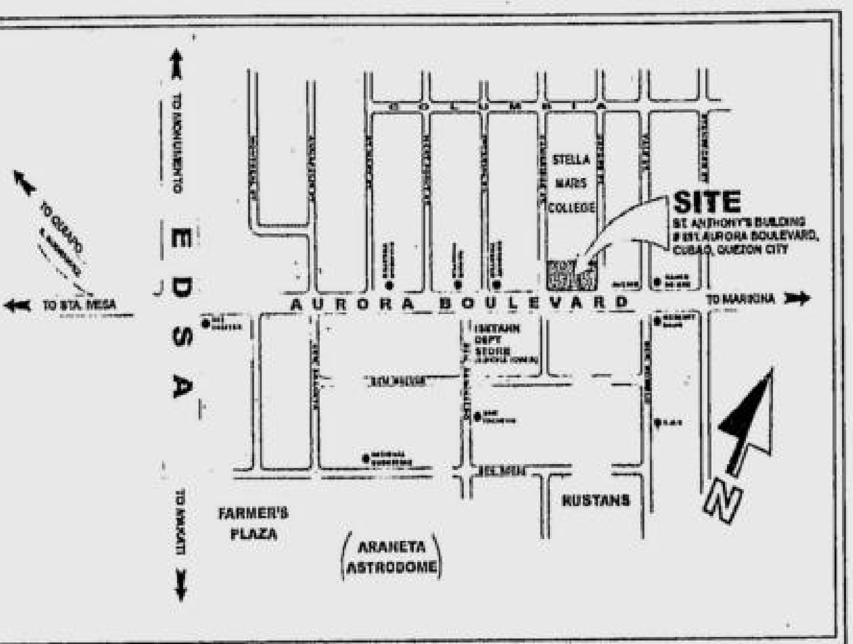

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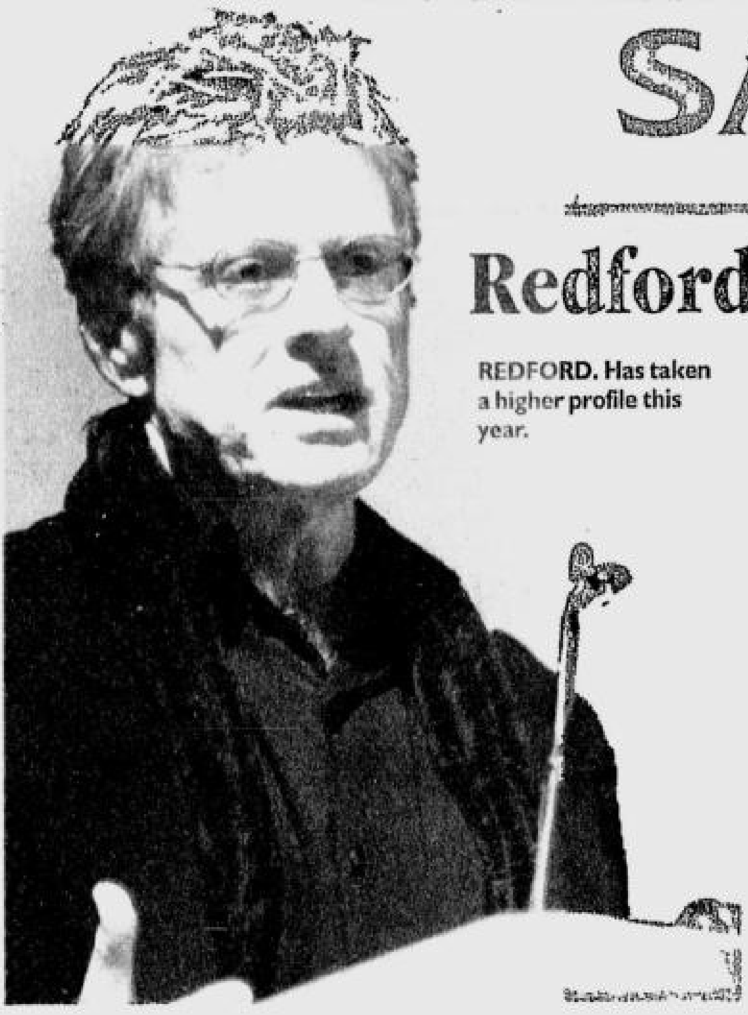
SATURDAY *Special*

Editor **Nestor U. Torre** ● Associate Editor **Edmund L. Sicam**

Redford encourages diversity at Sundance filmfest



REDFORD. Has taken a higher profile this year.

By David Germain

PARK CITY, Utah—Amid the glitz, celebrity-watching and dealmaking that has overrun his Sundance Film Festival, Robert Redford figures now and then he has to step out from behind the scenes and remind people it's really all about movies.

Star power

Redford generally prefers to stay in the background so his own star power does not steal attention from the films. Some years, he has not even attended the festival if he was busy shooting a movie.

But this year, Redford has taken a higher profile, introducing the opening-night film with a passionate statement of Sundance's mission to encourage diversity and dissenting opinions.

"Sometimes, I feel the need, if anything, to remind people of who we are and what we're doing," Redford, 65, said in an interview. "It sometimes gets blurred by all the surrounding factors, the media, fashion, parties, which is fine. That's all part of the deal, but it's not *the* deal.

> He founded the Sundance Institute in 1981 to nurture promising filmmakers outside of Hollywood

"Everybody should have a good time, but it's the filmmakers and how we program for them that matters. We program for diversity, not commerciality."

Uncertain times

Redford's higher profile this year also had to do with uncertain times that followed the Sept. 11 attacks and the potential undermining of civil liberties as the Bush administration responds to terrorist threats.

"I wanted to explain why I think Sundance is more relevant than ever right now because of the role it plays, particularly in terms of a kind of freedom of expression," Redford said. "I got a little uneasy when I started to see there was a hint of this notion that normal parts of a democratic process were being treated differently, like it was unpatriotic to ask questions. And independent film, that's exactly what it does. It has the courage to ask things.

"In times of fear, we tend to go to safe places. Is there still going to be room for works addressing difficult issues, particularly if they're not either encouraged or being addressed on other levels?"

Redford founded the Sundance Institute in 1981 to nurture promising filmmakers outside of Hollywood, whose blockbuster-minded studios can chew up and spit out inexperienced writers and directors.

Film composers

The institute has gradually expanded to include programs for film composers, documentary filmmakers and American Indian artists.

"My goal was very much narrower at the time," Redford said. "It was very altruistic in the sense that I'd had a very productive decade as an actor, filmmaker, producer, and I wanted to put something back into my own business by creating opportunities for new voices and new artists."

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FEGI. Good and ready.

Anna Fegi seizes her golden moment

By Nestor U. Torre

THREE years ago, Bibsy Carballo invited us to catch the show of her new talent, Cebuana singer Anna Fegi, at the small bar of a hotel in Manila. Since we've made it a point to support young comers, we went to the intimate venue at the appointed time and date.

Musical director

We expected to witness another budget mini-presentation, but we were impressed to see that, although Anna was new, Bibsy had showcased her in an impressively professional way: her musical director was no less than Toti Fuentes, who has worked with name talents in the States. And Bibsy had hired a good sound system *and* lights to give her new contract talent the professional gloss she needed to make a good impression.

Other new singers should be so lucky as to get that kind of expensive showcasing from their managers!

As it turned out, Anna's hotel bar show indicated that she looked good and had a strong voice, but she was not yet her own person, musically speaking, and her vocal styling left something to be desired.

Professional showcase

It was precisely the professional showcase she was given that pulled her performance through that night. Without it, she wouldn't have made as good an impression. So, Bibsy's extra care and expense did pay off.

During the months that followed, Anna slowly but surely continued to make her mark. Her "signature" wild mane of curly locks was a turn-off, but we eventually decided to overlook it, and concentrated instead on the good way that her talent and showmanship were evolving.

Emerging divas

There was a time when Anna was being cited as one of around six promising "emerging divas" on the local entertainment scene. Later, the list was cut down to four, and she was still on it. Lately, it's been whittled down even more, to three, and she's survived the cut.

Even better, her spiels are no longer awkward, her singing is less fussy and *pa*-impress, and she's even unveiled her "classical" (placed) voice, which shows that she can do more than pop and rock, thus expanding her performing prospects further.

In fact, we feel that Anna Fegi will finally come into her own this year and never mind that corny diva-diva deal. Yes, she's good and ready (and let's hope that it doesn't go to her head).

Solo concert

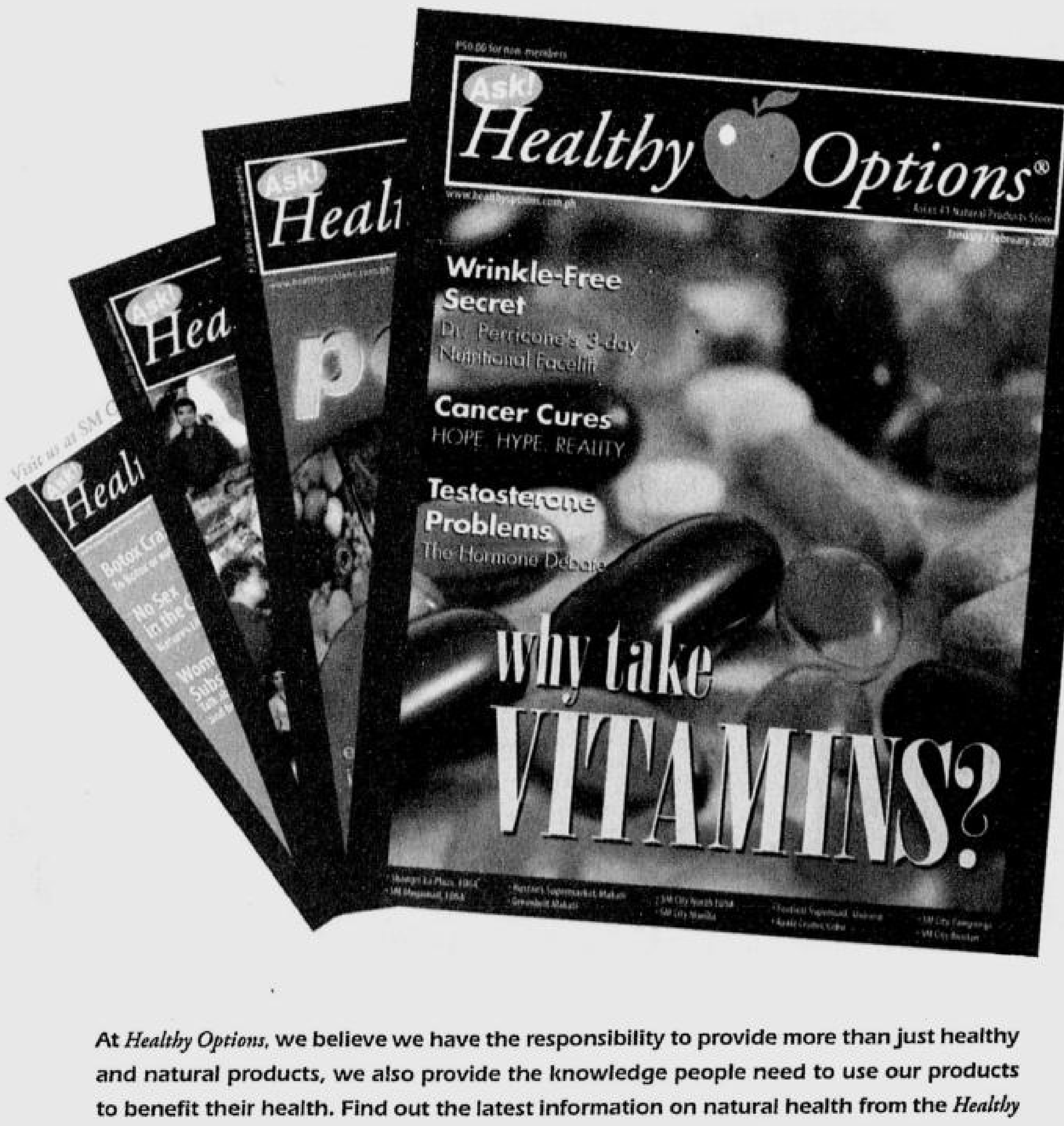
On Jan. 25, she leads off with a solo concert at Hard Rock, Makati titled "This Is the Moment." And from March 14 to April 6, she plays one of the leads in the local staging of the hit musical, "Dreamgirls." In the recording field, Anna is also coming on strong with the imminent release of her second album.

Put all these early indications together, and you get the feeling that 2003 will be Anna's year to prove whether or not she has it in her to emerge as a major talent.

The outcome is still a question mark, depending on Anna's ability to get completely focused on the big, starmaking push ahead, and not get distracted by subjective concerns.

Anna, when in doubt, trust your manager. After all, she's brought you to this make-or-break stage in your career. She may not be your mother—but obviously, she knows best!

Nobody does it better.



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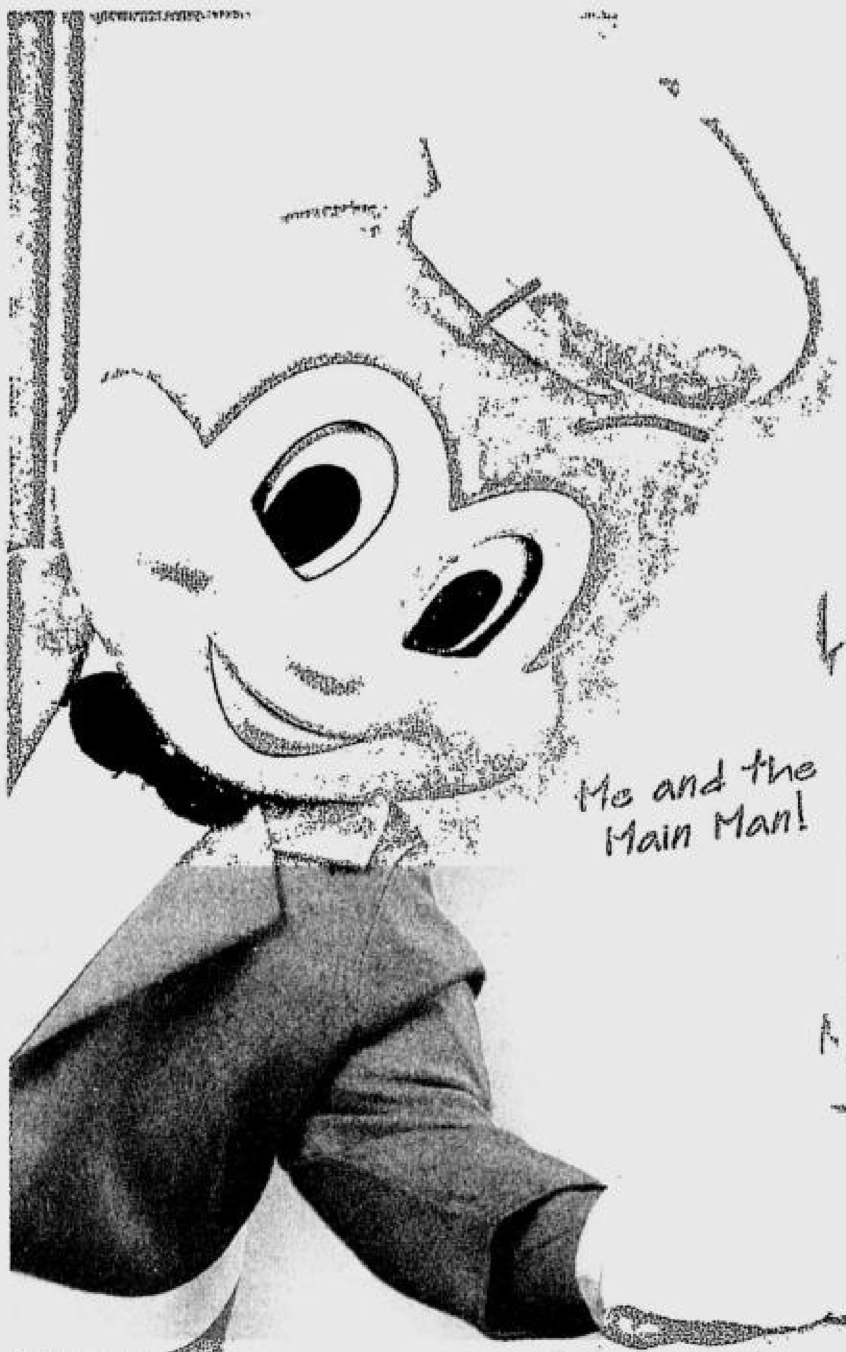
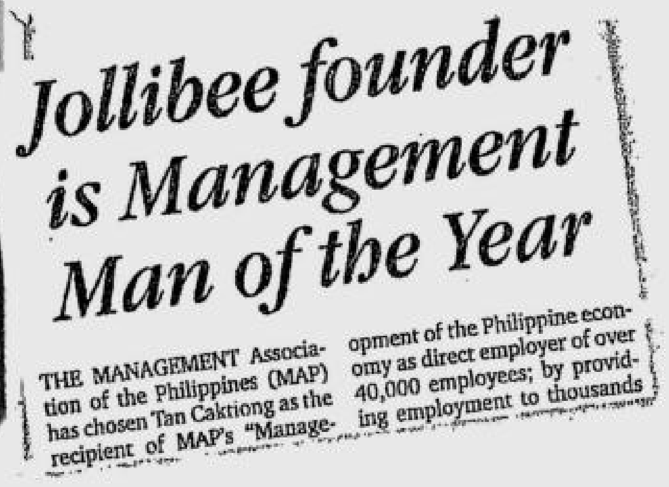
Here's a taste of my
Walang Kasing Sar





Jollibee founder is Management Man of the Year

THE MANAGEMENT Association of the Philippines (MAP) has chosen Tan Caktiong as the recipient of MAP's "Management of the Philippine economy as direct employer of over 40,000 employees; by providing employment to thousands

That's Mr. Tony Tan Caktiong, acclaimed by the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) as Management Man of the Year for 2002. He was chosen from among the best CEOs in the country today. TTC, as I fondly call him, is the man who started it all. He proved that a Filipino company can compete with and beat big-name foreign corporations successfully. Feeling proud ako sa kanya!

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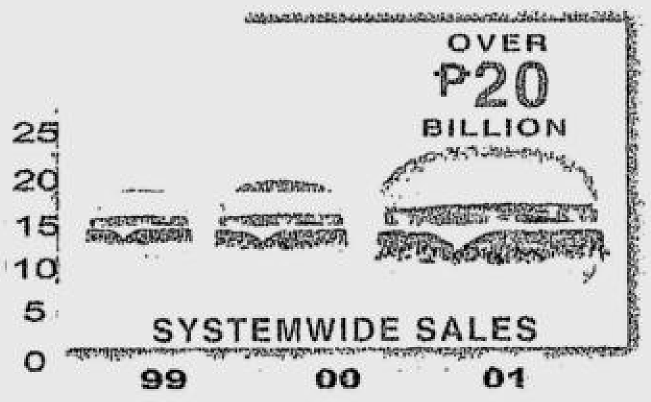
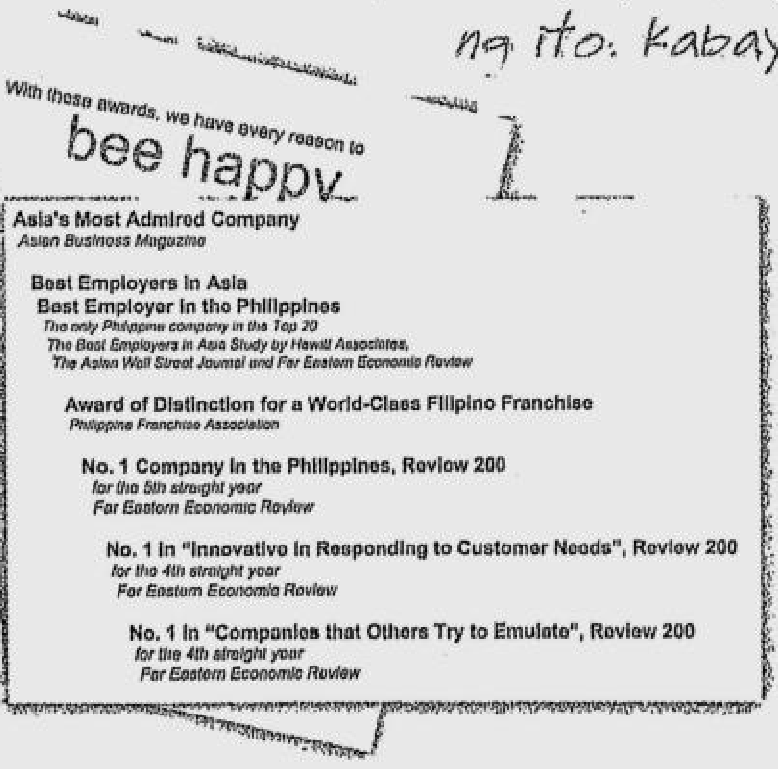


From a humble ice cream parlor in Cubao to a multi-billion peso global business - that's the story of my life. In my 25 years, fans all over the world have enjoyed over 1 billion Chickenjoys, over 1 billion Yumburgers, and over 750 million French Fries! Dito nga lang sa Pilipinas, 1 million na Pinoy araw-araw ang naglalanghap-sarap. Last year alone, my sales totaled to more than 20 billion pesos! Basta't masipag at matiyaga ka, lahat ng klase ng krisis ay kayang-kayang malampasan. At kung kaya ko, kaya rin ng bawat Pilipino!

Para sa 'yo ang lahat
ng ito, kabayan!



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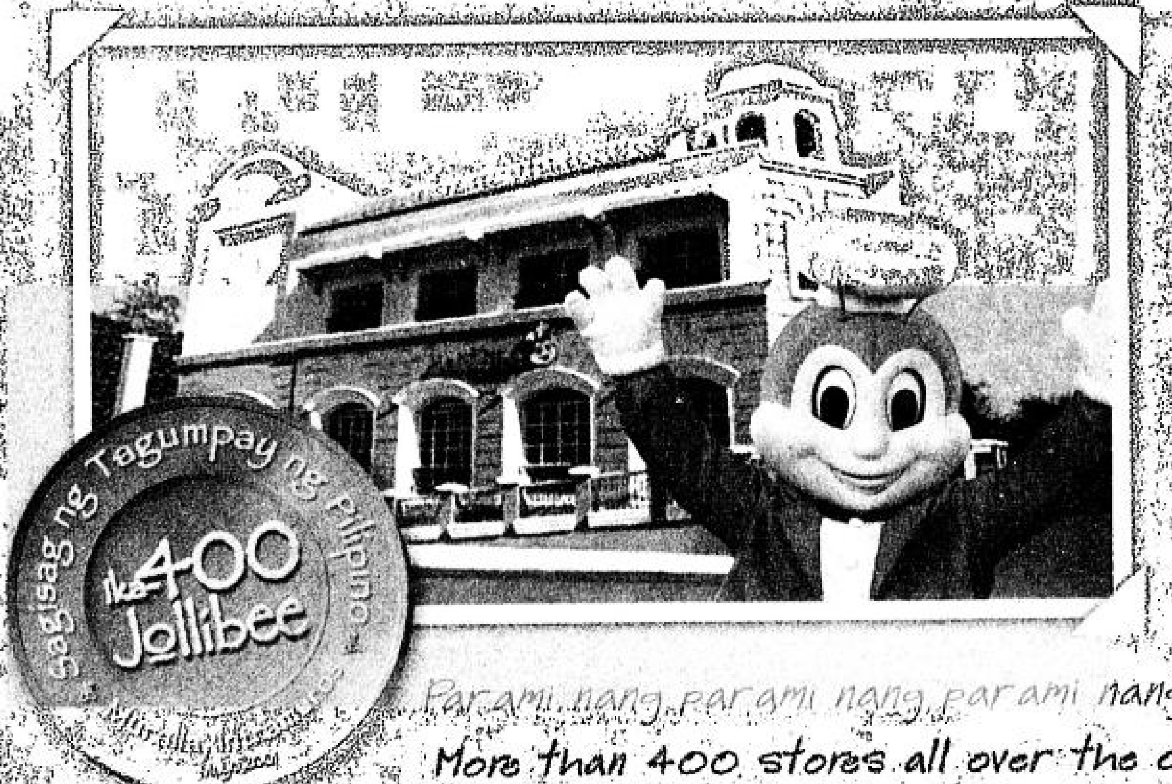
ap na 25 Years! Jollibee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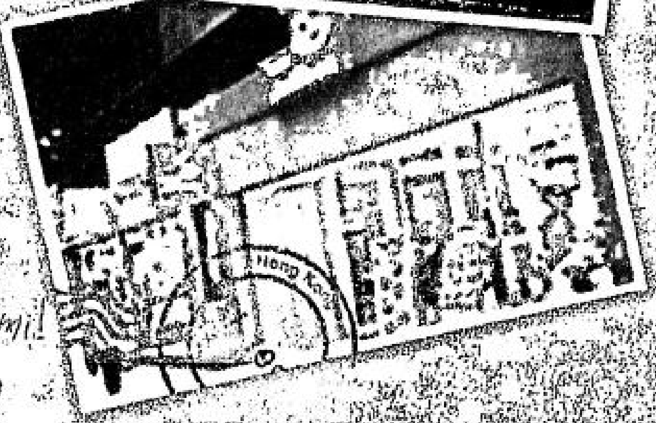

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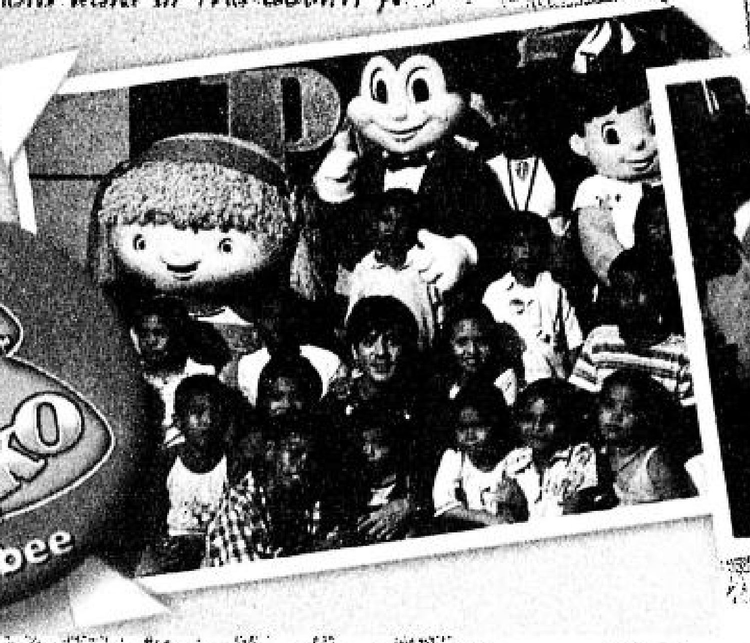

Mr. Aga ng Pasko sa Jollibee

Sabing Jollibee Kaya Mo, Kid!

Kids will always be closest to my heart. Luv ko talaga sila! That's why most of my social and community programs are for the children.

- The "Kaya Mo, Kid!" campaign helps empower Filipino children by encouraging them to do what they can, in their own little way, to contribute to the community. Seven years na rin ito and for our efforts, the Public Relations Society of the Philippines gave us the Grand Anvil Award in 1999 for being the best community program!
- MaAga ang Pasko, a brainchild of my good friend Aga Muhlach, spreads the spirit of Christmas everywhere with an in-store donation drive that distributes toys and books to less-fortunate kids. Last Christmas alone, more than 70,000 toys and books were collected and donated to children in over 100 institutions nationwide. Now on its 4th year, it is the country's longest-running Christmas toy and book drive.
- In partnership with Sa Aklat Sisikat Foundation, I help develop the habit and love of reading among Grade 4 public school kids. By this year, we will be helping spread the growth of literacy in 50 schools in Bulacan, the city of San Fernando in Pampanga and the city of Makati.
- I've always believed in the Filipino concept of bayanihan, of helping other people succeed. To help nourish the dreams of the poorest of the poor in our society, I, together with some friends in government and business, started feeding programs for them. Now, we have more than 19 feeding centers for kids and their families all over the Philippines from Quezon City to Basilan in Mindanao.
- With these efforts, I believe we can raise our children to be the best they can be, to take on the challenges of tomorrow's world. And to be a generation of responsible, principled and confident Filipinos.

Sa Aklat Sisikat

Dahil kung proud ka sa 'yong pagka-Pilipino,
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Feeling Jollibee
walang kasing sarap
25
Jollibee

Benefit performance of 'Magnificat' on March 8

By Nestor U. Torre

RYAN Cayabyab's acclaimed musical, "Magnificat," will be performed anew on March 8 by its cast of gifted actor-singers at the Cuneta Astrodome in Pasay City. The special performance will raise funds to renovate the San Juan Nepomuceno Parish Church in Malibay, Pasay. Call ABC Media at 895-7709. Tickets are also available at all SM Ticketnet outlets.

Cast

The religious musical's principal cast includes Pinky Marquez, Rito Asilo, Jingle Buena, Andy Bais, Joel Villaflor, Shiela Asuncion, Paul Marica, Ana Feleo, Arlene Borja and Angeli Flores.

"Magnifcat" has drawn not just enthusiastic audiences in the thousands all over the country, but also rave reviews from discriminating theater reviewers.

But the production's cast values most of all the spontaneously appreciative reactions of viewers after their performances.

The production's talents regularly interact with members of the audience who stay on after a show has ended, to share insights elicited by the musical, and thus make the show an even more rewarding viewing experience for everyone concerned.

PRINCIPAL cast members of Cayabyab's religious musical include (first row, from left) Andy Bais, Jingle Buena, Pinky Marquez as Mary, Angeli Flores; (second row) Paul Marica, Shiela Asuncion, Ana Feleo, Rito Asilo as Jesus, and Joel Villaflor.

Strengths

For instance, at just one venue, Louie's Cinema, these observations were shared by members of the audience, comments that serve to highlight the religious musical's strengths:

"This is the first time I hear the Bible in Tagalog, and I'm so proud to be a Filipino."

"I'm so impressed by your insights on the struggle of the Virgin Mary. I've come to realize how much she must have suffered."

"I felt the part where the miracles were shown one after the other was so powerful.

"To me, the most significant scene was the temptation of Christ, with Mary beside him. The message to me was that she's there with us in all our struggle."

Public life

"In the scenes on the public life of Jesus, Mary was there, but only on the side. This showed to me that Mary wants us to focus on Christ. He's still the center, but she's always there."

"You did a wonderful job. I wish you could show this in the United States. They will really appreciate something like this. Also, I was very much affected to see that Mary suffered like Jesus—not at the same level, but as a mother."

"You stripped the stage of anything that would distract us, but the stage picture was always beautiful and dramatic. You were able to convey the musical's message straight from the heart. I've been a nun in Denmark for 17 years. I couldn't help but wish you had an English translation."

"It was not just a play, it was a reflection of my soul, which is also struggling to love God."

"For 15 years, as a priest, I've been preaching about Jesus and Mary--but in two brief hours, you did more than I've done in evangelizing for the past 15 years."

"I'd like to encourage you to show this in the provinces, because very seldom do our people have a chance to experience something as beautiful and profound as this."

The production's cast values most of all the spontaneously appreciative reactions of viewers after their performances

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Grand Atrium, 2:30 p.m.

▶Lion Dance: January 25
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Grand Atrium, 1 p.m.

▶Dragon Dance:
January 26
Performed by the Philippine Ling Nam Society.
Grand Atrium, 1 p.m.

▶Chinese Opera "Kauka":
January 26
Performed by the Southern Chinese Opera Group.
Grand Atrium, 4 p.m.

▶Chinese Lantern Display:
February 1 - 9
See 14 Chinese lanterns designed by various painters namely: Ben Cab, Malang, Arturo Luz, Lao Liambien, Lilia Lao, Raul Isidro, Soler Santos, Steve Santos, Phil de la Cruz, Eúgene Jarque, Lexygius Calip, Jojo Lofranco, Ferdinand Doctolero.
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Bond's 'Shine' album is less than brilliant

(Conclusion)

By Noelani Torre

ANOTHER piece, "Big Love Adagio," is also based on a classical original, this time by Tomaso Albinoni, and it is a relief to listen to after all the heavy machinery working in the other tracks.

Softer

It's softer than "Strange Paradise" and here the four's musicians' skills are showcased at last, though the song itself isn't very challenging for strings.

Other tracks worthy of note are "Kashmir" and the bonus, "Bond on Bond." "Kashmir" is Bond's cover of the Led Zeppelin (Page and Plant) classic. The original already rocks, so it would take proper idiots to mess it up—which Bond are not, whatever else we may say. The drums are finally in the right place, resulting in a good blend of strings and bass beats.

"Bond on Bond" is another reworking, and if it sounds a little out of place compared with the other World Music-ish selections, well, it's a bonus. Thank God they included it, otherwise we'd have run out of good things to say by now.

Snappier

This track is Bond's version of the James Bond movies' theme. (The group's name, incidentally, is partly lifted from 007's moniker.) It's snappier and more fun than the original, and the girls throw in their own kind of Bond pizzazz.

Though they say they've been more involved in this album (they wrote three of the tracks), it certainly doesn't sound like it. And despite the numerous names listed on the inlay—from producers to engineers to orchestras—again, the result is disappointing.

Perhaps it's because there were too many people involved (six producers and one executive!). The girls should have been left alone to do their thing. We trust they do exactly that in their next album—and we also hope they'll lose the synthesizer and those heavy techno beats!

BOND. More involved with writing songs for this album.

Penshoppe presents 'Try Seventeen'

PENSHOPPE kicks off its 17th anniversary celebration with the presentation of "Try Seventeen," its image model Mandy Moore's latest movie.

Penshoppe recently hosted "Try Seventeen's" premiere showing for its media friends at myCinema at Greenbelt 3, Makati.

A funky, fantasticating comedy, "Try Seventeen" is the story of Jones Dillon (Elijah Wood) who enters college only to discover that he can learn more about life and love from his apartment neighbors, including the eccentric Jane (Franka Potente) and the vampy aspiring actress Lisa (Mandy Moore).

MOORE. Plays an aspiring actress.

E-mail: pr_saturday_special@inquirer.com.ph
SATURDAY Special
Editor Nestor U. Torre ◎ Associate Editor Edmund L. Sicam

Reality madness spearheads mid-season TV lineup

By Steve Gorman

LOS ANGELES—A faux millionaire, a stunning blonde bachelorette and a primetime talent search all debuted to big ratings this week as a fresh crop of "reality" shows spearheaded network television's mid-season realignment in the States.

New wave

From an upcoming "Dragnet" update and a drug-cartel drama titled "Kingpin" to a TV version of the hit movie "My Big Fat Greek Wedding," broadcasters are rolling out a new wave of shows to replace their ratings misfires from the fall.

Leading the charge this week were a trio of reality shows that premiered to strong ratings, starting with the smash ratings debut of Fox TV's romance novelty "Joe Millionaire." An estimated 18.6 million viewers tuned in to see 20 women compete for the affections of a construction worker posing as an heir to a $50 million fortune but who actually earns less than $20,000 a year.

Monday night's audience was the biggest ever for the debut of an unscripted show in prime time and Fox's highest rating for that time period in eight years.

Distaff version

ABC drew almost as many viewers, 17.6 million, with the debut of "Bachelorette," a distaff version of its successful "Bachelor" franchise with a bevy of eager males vying to woo a leggy, blonde cheerleader turned physical therapist. The "Bachelorette" premiere crushed NBC political drama "The West Wing" and scored the highest rating of the night among the key demographic of young adult viewers.

Earlier that night, the Arsenio Hall-hosted "Star Search," a CBS update of the long-running talent show emceed in syndication by Ed McMahon, debuted in first place for its hour with nearly 14 million viewers. More reality shows are in the pipeline for later this season.

The first new scripted series out of the mid-season starting gate will center on the fictional firmament of the courtroom and Capitol Hill.

Oliver Platt, whose journalist drama "Deadline" flopped on NBC two years ago, stars as a New York judge in the new CBS series "Queens Supreme," while Josh Brolin plays an idealistic newcomer to the US Senate in NBC's "Mr. Sterling," set at the opposite end of Pennsylvania Avenue from "The West Wing."

The comedic flip side of New York law and Washington politics figures in two other shows expected later this season—"A.U.S.A," an NBC sitcom about assistant US attorneys set in Manhattan, and CBS' "Charlie Lawrence," starring Nathan Lane as an openly gay US senator.

Crime dramas

Among the most anticipated new shows of the midseason are a pair of crime dramas debuting Feb. 2—NBC's "Kingpin," about a Mexican drug lord and his family, and ABC's remake of the landmark cop show "Dragnet," with Ed O'Neill (the loutish Al Bundy from "Married . . . With Children") as Joe Friday.

CBS is hoping to cash in on the popularity of the surprise hit film "My Big Fat Greek Wed-

REALITY/ D2

EVAN Marriott is "Joe Millionaire."

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ONLY FROM SMART, THE LEADER IN MOBILE E-COMMERCE

FDCP and CEB officers, members sworn in by President Arroyo

By Nestor U. Torre

LAST Wednesday, Jan. 15, at the Ceremonial Hall of Malacañang Palace, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo swore into office film director Laurice Guillen as chairperson of the newly-formed Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP), in accordance with Republic Act No. 9167.

Also sworn in were Zeneida Amador as chairperson of the Cinema Evaluation Board (CEB) under the FDCP, together with other members of the CEB.

FIRST row: Marissa Floirendo, Leah Navarro, Boots-Anson-Roa, Maan Hontiveros. Mitch Valdes, Rep. Imee Marcos, FDCP chairperson Laurice Guillen-Feleo, President Macapagal-Arroyo, CEB chairperson Zeneida Amador, Behn Cervantes, Tommy Abuel, Joyce Bernal, Catherine May Jimenez and Tikoy Aguiluz. Second row: Ian Monsod, Chinggoy Alonzo, Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye, Pete Lacaba, Gerardo Carual, Juaniyo Arcellana, Roy Iglesias, Nestor Torre, Rofel Brion and Lourd Ernest de Veyra.

Tax incentives

Right after the ceremony, Guillen and Amador announced that the CEB is in operation, and therefore film producers can now submit their films for possible tax incentives, according to law.

Guillen stressed, "The CEB is the centerpiece of the FDCP, and I hope that film producers will avail of the opportunity provided by government for the support and development of Filipino movies."

Integrity

For her part, Amador added, "I'm happy with the composition of the members of the CEB appointed by President Arroyo. I trust that the probity and integrity of the Board will further the vision of the Film Development Council of the Philippines."

The CEB can be reached at the telephone numbers 832-8052 to 54 and fax no. 831-1465. Its officers are located at the third floor of the Production Design Center Building, CCP Complex, Roxas blvd., Pasay City.

Members

The members of the Board are Nestor U. Torre, vice chairperson; Joyce Bernal, Christine Dayrit, Maan Hontiveros, Marissa Floirendo, Catherine May Jimenez, Mary Rose Moreno, Leah Navarro, Boots Anson-Roa, Susanne Santos, Mitch Valdes, Juan Eugenio Arcellana, Tommy Abuel, Tikoy Aguiluz, Chinggoy Alonzo, Rofel Brion, Gerardo Carual, Behn Cervantes, Lourd Ernest De Veyra, Butch Francisco, Roy Iglesias, Jose Isabelo, Pete Lacaba, William Laranas, Leo Martinez, Christian Enrique Monsod III, and Eddie Romero.

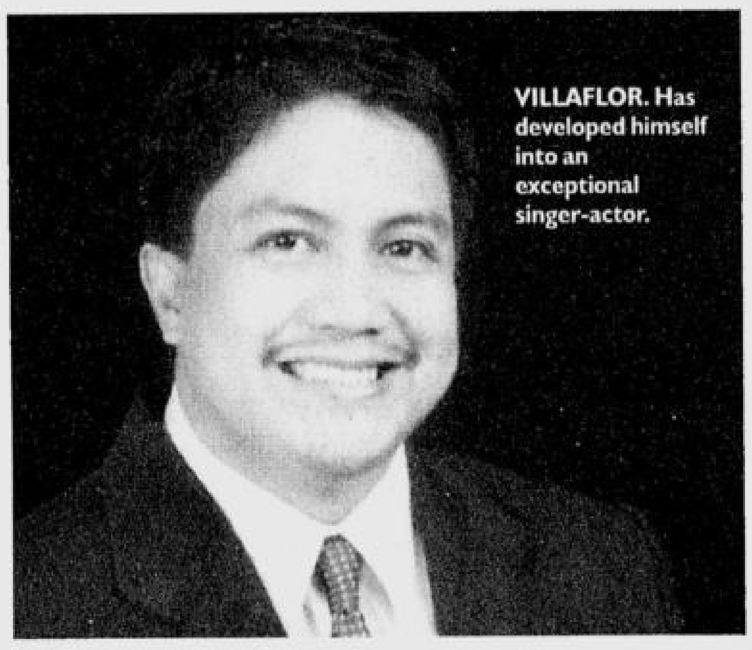
Criteria

Right after the oath-taking ceremonies at Malacañang, the members of the Cinema Evaluation Board met at the FDCP's office at the CCP complex with FDCP chairperson Guillen and CEB

FDCP/ D3

Young tenor sings up a storm

By Andy P. Bais



VILLAFLOR. Has developed himself into an exceptional singer-actor.

MUCH has been written about "stage mothers" who push their children in order for them to attain show biz stardom. But seldom do we hear of wives doing the same for their beloved husbands.

Powerful voice

Naturally-gifted tenor Joel Villaflor's entry into the performing scene was the handiwork of his wife Gemma. But she cannot be faulted for being a "stage wife." Those who have heard Joel sing in various musical productions can attest to the fact that he can really sing up a storm. He has such a powerful voice that a microphone seems useless in front of him. But that's getting ahead of our story.

Joel says that he was happy with his former job as occasional tour guide, and with looking after his young daughter when Gemma, a PAL international flight attendant, was abroad. He had no idea that he could also act and sing in musicals.

But, since the first time she heard Joel sing, Gemma had always hoped that her husband could put to good use his naturally high tenor voice.

Wider audience

"*Talagang ibang klase ang kanyang boses at naisip ko na hindi ito pang-inuman lang.* His voice deserves to be heard and appreciated by a wider audience. Operatic *kasi ang dating* and he can reach high notes effortlessly," she proudly narrates.

She was so serious with her "mission" that everytime she came across an announcement for auditions for a musical production in the newspapers, she cut it out and informed Joel about it. But each time she did that, Joel refused to budge.

The ever-persistent wife never stopped convincing Joel to showcase his talent. So she finally dragged Joel to an audition for a local musical. And, as expected, her ward passed, and that finally opened doors for Joel's entry into the exciting world of musical theater.

The Cebuano's first professional stage performance was in Ryan Cayabyab's hit religious musical "Magnificat." He started out as a chorus member and, until now, he laughs each time he remembers his first stage outing: "*Para akong kinikiliti sa tuwa kapag naa-alala ko yun, kasi nakakahiya talaga. Di ko pa kasi alam masyado ang gagawin* during the performance, so, *na*-tense *ako at nasagi ko ang mga kandila na nakalagay sa* stage!

Succeeding scenes

"*Sa takot ko, di na ako lumabas* for the succeeding scenes. I just sat down *sa* backstage till the show ended. *Kaya,* first talent fee *ko, kalahati lang ang binigay*!" he laughs.

In time, however, Joel gained the needed confidence and he eventually graduated from being a chorus member to a versatile actor portraying at least four different characters in "Magnificat."

He was always (and still is) a commanding presence, vocally and visually, as God the Father. His voice can also be soothing and caressing when he sing the songs of Joseph.

He even surprised everyone, including the director, when he sang the songs of the Virgin Mary *a la* Dulce during a lull in rehearsals. In fact, if there's a search for a Dulce sing-alike, Joel would win it, hands down

After "Magnificat," Joel appeared in Musicat's original staging of "Sino Ka Ba, Jose Rizal." Of the five roles that he played in that musical, he considers the role of Francisco Mercado, the national hero's father, as the most challenging.

"*Talagang piniga ng direktor ang anumang* talent *meron ako, lalo na sa* acting. *Nahilo rin ako sa mga* fast changes *ng* costumes. *Medyo may kalakihan kasi ako, kaya nahirapan ako sa pagbibihis.* But I got used to it," he recalls.

Acting ability

In Bing Pimentel's touring production, "Nasaan si Hesus?," Joel gets the chance to showcase not only his singing talent but his acting ability as well. He is very convincing as the shrewd factory owner in one of the highly-charged scenes in the popular religious musical-revue.

"*Sa pagtitiyaga ng direktor namin, natuto din akong umarte.* Slowly but surely, *naintindihan ko rin na dapat pag-isipan talaga ang bawat salita sa* script *at hindi dali lang ng dali*.

"Through my exposure in theater, I have also learned the value of patience and discipline. *Nakita ko ito sa mga tumulong sa akin para ma*-develop *ako* as a stage actor-singer. I never imagined *na mangyari ito sa akin*. I finally believed *na totoo pala ang kasabihan na, pag may tiyaga, may nilaga*!" he exclaims.

Joel is aware that life in theater is not that financially rewarding. That is why he and Gemma have put up their own family business near their place in Dapitan: an internet cafe and mini bar. "This way, *meron pa rin akong pagkakitaan* when theater offers are few and far between, " Joel says.

But, if the very promising tenor and actor gets the attention he deserves, that isn't likely to happen. In fact, he should find himself busier as a performer from here on in! Call 713-9323 or 0919-2065424.

Hollywood's other dancing stars recalled

By Behn Cervantes

WHEN we think of Hollywood dancers we immediately think of Fred Astaire and Gene Kelly, the most outstanding of US cinema's hoofers. Astaire was esteemed for his suave and seemingly effortless style, while Kelly was impressively athletic and daring.

Gentleman

Astaire personified the gentleman in long hat and tails, but Gene looked great dressed as an ordinary Joe. Both had ardent fans who followed their every step as they danced with various leading ladies, lamp posts, tables, chairs, canes, cartoon characters like Mickey Mouse, and whatever else was in the vicinity of the set!

Of course, one can't think of Fred without remembering spunky Ginger Rogers, who hoofed it up with him in many successful films—all the way from the nightclubs of Manhattan to the carnivals in Rio. She claimed it was more difficult dancing backwards in high heels when she expressed umbrage over the fact that their co-starring vehicles were called exclusively Astaire films.

Long-legged beauty

Like Fred, Gene had different dancing partners, but he was most memorable with the long-legged beauty Cyd Charisse, although his Academy Award-winning film "An American in Paris" starred French import Leslie Caron.

Hollywood had other dancers who added pizazz to many a musical. Donald O'Connor appeared in many great movies including the immortal "Singin' in the Rain" where he performed the show-stopping number, "Let 'Em Laugh."

Since he was slight of build and not very goodlooking, he never became a lead dancer like Kelly. However, he was Marilyn Monroe's unlikely romantic interest in "There's No Business Like Show Business," where he put his dancing prowess to the test with the likes of Dan Dailey and Mitzi Gaynor, two of Hollywood's other great dancers.

Tapdancing

Dailey hoofed it up with Kelly, Cyd Charisse and Ann Miller in "It's Always Fair Weather," proving that he could hold his own while tapdancing with the best of them.

Tall and slim Vera Ellen danced with both Astaire and Kelley, and appeared in various musicals where her girlish charms and dancing skills lit up the ballroom.

Cyd Charisse was Aphrodite incarnate in dance. She imbued her performance with great style and sex appeal that made each dance a standout, whether it was the sword dance in "Fiesta" or the Apache number in "Singin' in the Rain."

Her dark beauty and long legs supporting a bathing-beauty body were unmatched. She eventually became the leading lady in musicals like "Brigadoon," "Silk Stockings" and "Band Wagon," but pregnancy prevented her from accepting the coveted female lead role in "American in Paris." *(To be concluded)*

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Reality madness spearheads mid-season . . .

"THE BACHELORETTE'S" Trista Rehn.

From page D1

ding" with a serialized small-screen adaptation of the movie this spring.

The series features most of the film's stars, including Nia Vardalos as the bride. But groom John Corbett will be replaced by Steven Eckholdt. No air date has been set, though it is expected to premiere in March. CBS had hoped to launch the series earlier this year, but production was delayed to allow Vardalos time to promote the film in Europe.

The start of midseason marks a key halftime adjustment for the networks, allowing them to shuffle existing shows, fill in the gaps with new ones that previously were unready or failed to make the cut, or to give a second chance to others.

CBS, a unit of Viacom Inc., is also bringing back its talking-infant comedy, "Baby Bob." And NBC, owned by General Electric Co., plans another run of "Watching Ellie," starring former "Seinfeld" star Julia Louis-Dreyfus.

Mid-season shifts

The success of midseason shifts is critical for ABC in particular, as the Walt Disney Co.-owned network struggles to rebuild its schedule after a year of dismal ratings. The network found success in the fall with several of its comedies, but three high-profile new dramas fizzled—"That Was Then," "Push, Nevada" and "Dinotopia." With ABC's flagship sports telecast "Monday Night Football" over for the season, the network is moving its legal drama "The Practice" to Mondays along with two new dramas—the father-son archeological adventure "Veritas: The Quest," and the supernatural thriller "Miracles." Both premiere Jan. 27.

Fox, wrestling with a ratings slump of its own this season, brings its summer reality hit "American Idol" back to prime time with twice-weekly airings. Fox is a unit of News Corp. Ltd.

Reuters

FDCP and CEB officers, members sworn in by President Arroyo

From page C2

chairperson Amador to clarify the board's rules, criteria and guidelines.

The CEB members launched into a spirited discussion of their views on film, the context of the local movie industry, and the importance of providing amusement tax rebates as incentives for superior work. The members pledged to take their role as film evaluators seriously, and to give it the priority in their busy schedules that it deserves.

Quality movies

It was recalled that, in the 1980s, the CEB's precursor, the Film Ratings Board, succeeded in helping raise the level of filmmaking in the Philippines, with producers and director making quality movies especially to get a favorable (B or A) FRB rating that would entitle them to incentives.

Hopes were high that, if the CEB did its job judiciously, it could also help motivate producers today to come up with better films that would provide quality entertainment for the country's millions of moviegoers.

Seminars

At the end of the long session, the CEB members felt a stronger sense of unity of purpose. They agreed to meet again a week later for the first in a series of in-depth seminars facilitated by experts on the different film crafts, to further hone their acuity as film appreciators and evaluators.

GUILLEN-FELEO. FDCP chairperson.

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-Sirach 6:14

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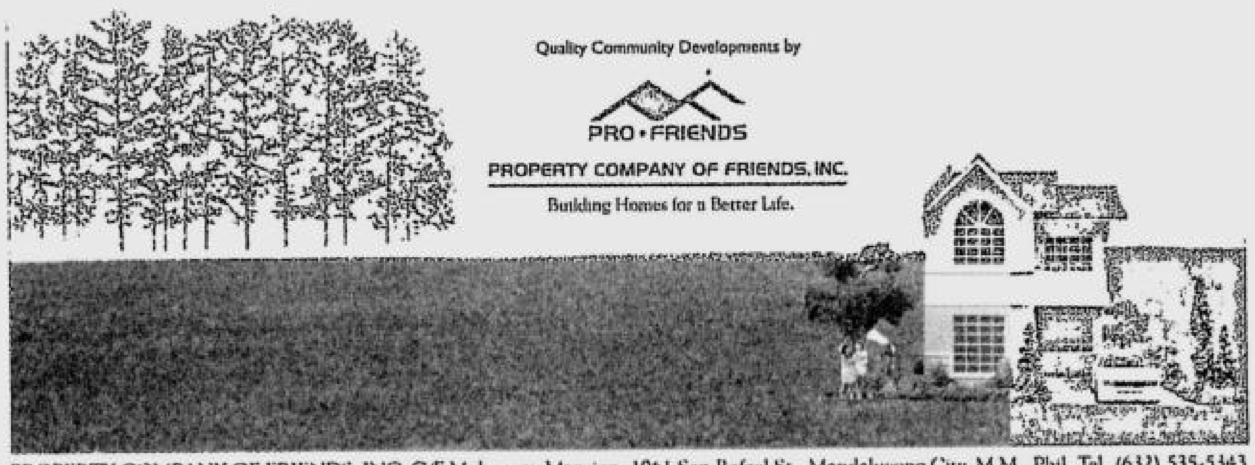

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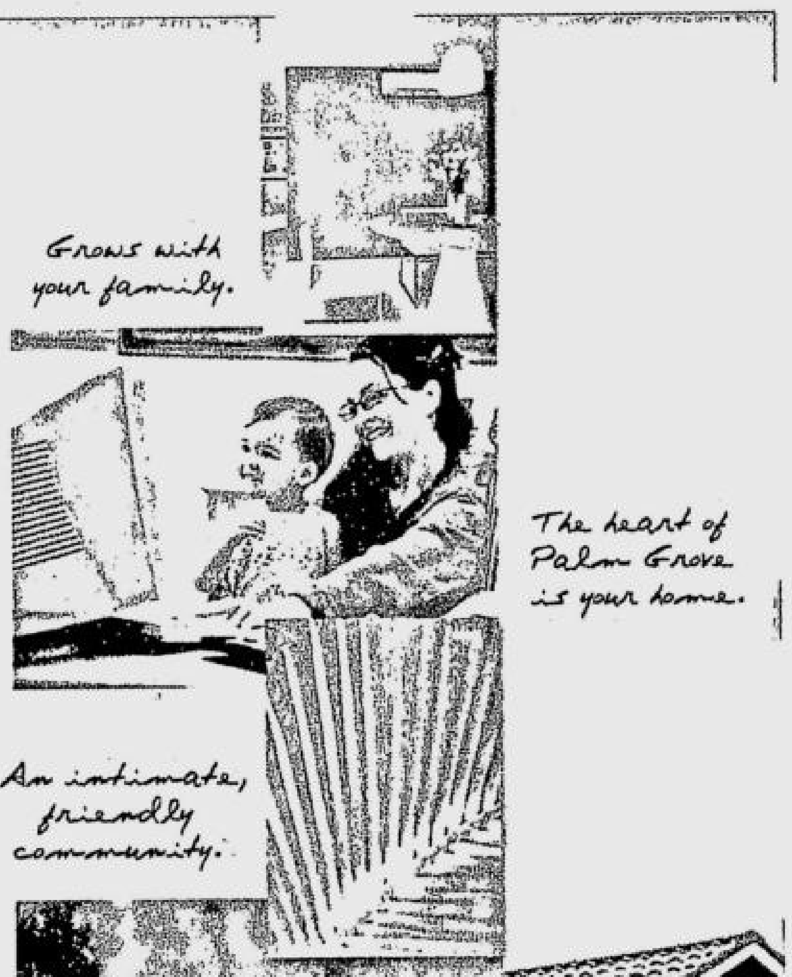
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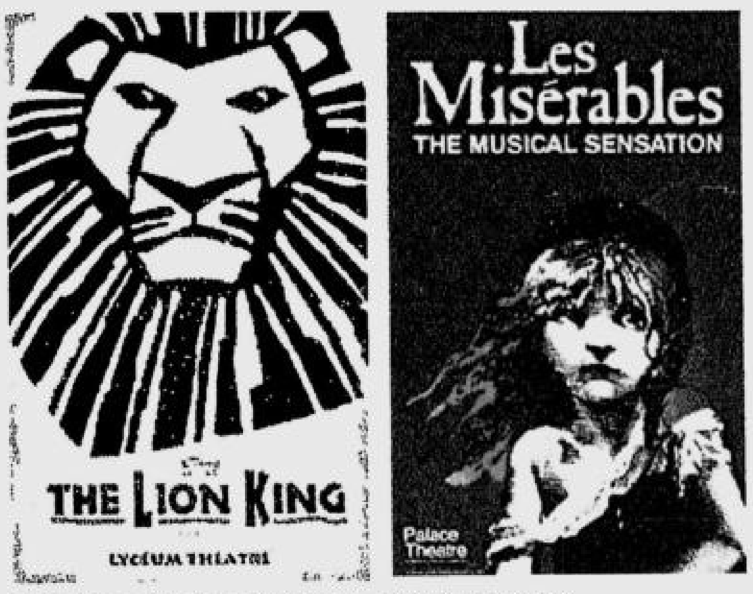
London's West End offers a variety of musical treats

By Rito P. Asilo

ON OUR recent London trip, while straight plays and dramas got our full attention and revved our mind to aesthetic overdrive, it was the musicals that truly entertained us.



ONLY two of the long-running theater hits in London.

Relaxing

After all, everybody needs a dose of his R&Rs after a hard day's work. What could be more relaxing than a production whose major purpose is to please and satisfy? You are even luckier if you chance upon material that is as cerebral as it is uplifting.

Sometimes, though, the storylines of those musicals are as thin as toothpicks. An earnest straight play, like Jonathan Hall's likable but flawed and ultimately predictable "Coffee Lover's Guide to America," is a much more satisfying trip to the theater than a lavish but mindless musical.

(The play, a gay spin on the "road trip" genre, weaves a narrative about a pair of mismatched strangers—one British, the other American—travelling across America.)

But this is not often the case, as the British have already mastered the musical theatre genre the way Filipinos have mastered belting any song we're asked to sing. There's always something new, something different, that one can utilize in musicals—an innovation that sets one apart from the rest.

Innovation

One innovation that started generating attention 10 years ago at Edinburgh and has since spawned copycats, like the Scandinavian "Bounce" and the Australian "Tap Dogs," is the groundbreaking "Stomp," a plotless but inventive spectacle of soundmaking and street theater. It uses everyday objects (like plungers, matchboxes, cigarette lighters, water containers, stick brooms, etc.) to create a rhythmic, almost musical, movement, through the sounds they create. It's amusing to see how these sounds are produced onstage.

At the other end of the pole is "Romeo & Juliet—The Musical," the Bard's most popular love story given a modern twist. An English pop musical, mind you, based on the most successful French-language stage musical ever. Unfortunately, the director does not have Baz Lurmann's inventiveness and vision.

We have not seen the French version, but whatever it had going for itself in Paris, it sure didn't translate here. By intermission, our friend, Rossana, had to drown herself in wine to forget the messy spectacle.

This had the kitschiest choreography we've seen in years, with unapologetically over-the-top performances from most of its actors. The ensemble was dressed like vampires.

Refreshing take

Giving Juliet a refreshing take was 15-year-old Lorna Want, whose voice captivated us effortlessly. Guess whom she beat for the role? Charlotte Church, classical pop's young diva!

Another fluffy, predictable, albeit more successful, musical was "Fame," which follows the travails of star-struck students from New York's legendary School for the Performing Arts. Great songs ("Bring On Tomorrow," "Hard Work," "I Want to Make Magic," "Think of Meryl Streep"), jaw-dropping choreography, great voices.

But we noticed that the singers in the cast just sang, the dancers danced, the actors acted. And we thought all along that we in the Philippines were the only ones who lacked all-around performers. If anything, the Filipino performer sings like hell, acts up a storm, and somehow knows how to move or dance a bit.

The classiest, darkest musical we've seen is "Chicago." It has the hardest, most broodingly complex all-around characters. It's bitterly cynical, it's funny and it's a true story that truly razzle-dazzles!

This musical tale of murder, manipulation and the pursuit of fame in the "roaring '20s" tells the stories of death-row convicts Roxy and Velma, sleazy lawyer Billy Flynn (portrayed by Marti Pellow, lead vocalist of Wet Wet Wet, of "Love is All Around" fame) and Paul Rider ("Topsy Turvy"). Can't wait to see Renee Zellweger, Catherine Zeta-Jones and Richard Gere in the acclaimed big-screen version!

Sound booth

We watched "The Lion King" inside the sound booth, courtesy of Gia Macuja, one of only two Filipinos in the cast. This is the most sweepingly lavish production we've seen on the West End, with every scene stamped with the Disney trademark!

As the sound technician we chatted with quipped, "On this show, you see where all the Disney money went."

The opening number, "Circle of Life," was eye-popping: a boulder where the young cub is held aloft spirals majestically up from centerstage while stilt-legged giraffes, prancing antelopes, even an 11-foot elephant assemble to pay homage—you've never seen an image of Africa this colorful, it literally takes your breath away!

Singing was not that good but who needs it, anyway, when you have as lush a production design as this, a story designed to please, engaging performances, radio-friendly songs ("Can You Feel the Love Tonight?") and a good-triumphs-over-evil comeuppance in the end?

The production that can come close to "The Lion King's" awe-inspiring production design is Andrew Lloyd Weber's "The Phantom of the Opera," the ravishingly grand, gothic mural of love, betrayal and death. This is a haunting musical that tells of the tragic love between a singer and a scarred, lonely Phantom who lives beneath the majestic Opera House in Paris.

(To be concluded)

Marilou Diaz-Abaya shoots 'Moral 2000'

By Nestor U. Torre

AFTER shooting big productions like "Jose Rizal," "Muro-Ami" and "Bagong Buwan," Marilou Diaz-Abaya felt like she needed a "breather," which is why she agreed to do the relatively "small" film, "Moral 2000," for Star Cinema.

New resonances

Compared to her other epic blockbusters, the "20-years-later" sequel to her 1982 movie, "Moral," was supposed to be a lark. But good projects have a way of taking on new resonances, so by the time it was ready to face the cameras, "Moral 2000" had turned out to be a pretty complex and challenging film in its own right.

Last Jan. 12, we visited the movie's set for the second time, and were astounded to see Marilou rehearsing an all-star cast composed of (take a deep breath) Dina Bonnevie, Cherry Pie Picache, Laurice Guillen, Jean Garcia, Eula Valdez, Jericho Rosales, Marvin Agustin, Noni Buencamino, Lito Pimentel, Aiza Marquez, Jodi Santamaria, Dimples Romana—!

Subdivision

All those stars were involved in the solitary sequence that was to be filmed that morning in a subdivision in Fairview.

Ordinarily, all that collective star value would have drawn hundreds of screaming fans. But the crowd control system instituted by the studio worked so well that both cast and crew were able to work in relative peace and quiet.

Many of the movie's scenes are dramatically compelling, but the scene shot that morning was relatively light, so Marilou and her actors were having themselves a fun time rehearsing the raucous welcome song that they were supposed to sing when Dina Bonnevie's character arrived from abroad.

Dry runs

Much of the morning was taken up by dry runs of a long and complex steadicam shot of Dina and Laurice entering the house, meeting various friends and their relatives, and ending with a shot of Jericho, clearly showing his infatuation with his mother's friend, Dina.

The shot took a lot of rehearsals and some takes to perfect, but everyone worked hard at it because all of the actors sensed that it was a special moment for the film. It introduced its principal character in just one sweeping take, and it did it fluidly, dynamically.

Sense of fun

It was while this shot was being worked on that we saw a new side to Marilou as director. In most of her recent films, she was admirably focused, creative and committed, but here we saw her yet another element to her directorial persona, a spirited sense of fun.

Even better, this zestful attack was both balanced by and contrasted to an ultimately emotional import, as Jericho found himself both surprised and shocked by his "unacceptable" feeling for his *tita*.

Underrated

Later that morning, during breaks in the shooting, we conducted running conversations with Marilou, Laurice, screenwriter Ricky Lee, and Noni Buencamino, one of our best albeit most underrated actors.

It was heartening to share even this small moment in the filmmaking process with them. With fine talents such as these, there is hope for the much-maligned local film industry. We look forward to viewing "Moral 2000" (working title?) in its entirety when it's finally shown later this year.

BONNEVIE. Plays a mature woman who falls in love with her best friend's son.

Film industry reconnects with viewers

BONG Revilla starred in "Agimat," one of the Metro filmfest movies that proved local filmmakers are capable of high-tech innovations.

By Veron Dionisio

FOR a long time, the film industry has been desperately seeking its audience. It seemed no amount of commercial strategies could lure them back to theaters and rekindle their interest and enthusiasm in watching local films, after being disillusioned with the kind of products the industry has been offering them, from cheap sex flicks to action or comedy potboilers.

Local movies

But the commercial success of the recent Metro Manila Film Festival, despite its controversies, has brought the audience back to watching local movies. Explanations?

Economic activity has always been robust during the Christmas season. With bonuses and other holiday incentives, employees and workers had stronger purchasing power and decided to take a peek at the filmfest entries.

Bandwagon

Another reason could be that, with the lack of competition from big Hollywood blockbusters, even lovers of foreign films opted to join the bandwagon.

And the fact that the festival was held simultaneously in key cities contributed greatly to its success, creating collective consumer consciousness.

Technology

Technology also played a great role in the festival's success. Embracing the latest and modern but affordable audio-video electronic gadgets and other pre- and post-production facilities, our filmmakers proved that they were capable of high-tech innovations.

Indeed, the festival's success proves that all is not lost, after all. The audience went back to viewing Filipino movies for the simple reason that they liked the films, and came out of the theaters satisfied, breathing a sigh of relief that, at last, they had not been taken for granted.

Juice cleansing

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

CLEANLINESS is next to Godliness. One of the areas we should keep clean is our physical body. And one of the best processes to clean-up our polluted and clogged-up physical system is to go for juice fasting.

Priority

Juice fasting makes for fantastic cleansing. Trying to get rid of toxic garbage in our body should be a priority for any person who wants to be healthy. And doing it with healthy, nourishing juices is not only throwing out the dirt but also healing internal organs and systems.

Insights from "Fall Fasting" by Catherine Monahan in the Delicious Living magazine:

"When Dale Zarzana, 53, decided to try a juice cleanse, she hoped, at best, to wring off a few extra pounds. 'I wanted to try something radically different,' she says. After a short fast, Zarzana lost weight, along with her allergies, joint pain and lifelong caffeine habit.

Good health

"Trading food for nutrient rich juices is becoming an acceptable shortcut to good health. And if shaking persistent fatigue or headaches isn't enough to persuade you, consider that most people who complete a juice cleanse claim a sense of clarity. calm and purity . . .

"Your body is a diligent detoxer. Each night while you sleep, your liver, gallbladder, kidneys and intestines coordinate to remove free radicals and other metabolic byproducts from cells and tissues. In a perfect world, this efficient system would continue as long as you did. but it doesn't. Stowaway pesticides, herbicides and other toxins remain entrenched in fatty tissues. Indigestion and congestion abound. Why? Because your body's detox-to-do list has become downright overwhelming.

"The culprit is dinner. More precisely, too much dinner. Diets high in sugar, fat, caffeine, alcohol and a host of additives press the body's self-cleansing mechanism Into a state of constant catch-up. Beleaguered by these everyday toxins, the body becomes vulnerable to illness."

The solution? Give the body a clean break. Let it rest, rejuvenate and become cleansed of waste products. Fresh juices, vegetable and invigorating herb soups all aid the body to flush out the clogged garbage and infuse rich vitamins, minerals and antioxidants where they are most needed.

Season

Now that fruits and vegetables are becoming cheaper and more abundant, take advantage of the season to take a cleansing break. Experiment with various combinations and recipes. My favorite juice combinations include mango-banana and pineapple-banana. Try *dalanghita* juice with honey, or various herbal teas such as fresh lemongrass tea and basil tea. Be adventurous with herb soups and salads. Think clean, eat clean and feel clean!

Email Lotuspond108@hotmail.com

'TW5' AT THE SHANG

No Curfew and Shangri-La Plaza Mall recently gave "The World of Music" patrons a special treat with performances by the Metro Jazz Orchestra and special guests. In photo are (from left): Lito Pagayon of Admix Inc., guest performer Toti Fuentes, Prof. Rayben Maigue, conductor of the Metro Jazz Orchestra, Judith Banal, Vanessa Mayuga, Prof. Johnny Ramos, Savannah Lee, Angelique Lazo, show director Ding Fernandez and Jason de Jesus of Admix Inc.

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Separating divas from lesser singers

By Noelani Torre

IT seems to us that the appellation "diva" is too carelessly bandied about these days. Any sort of famous female who can sing moderately well is dubbed a diva on the local entertainment scene! The breed proliferates continually, though few can actually claim to be a diva in the true meaning of the word.

Wide vocal range

Based on current musical usage, a diva is a female singer with an exceptional singing voice, a wide vocal range, and a particular performance style that has her personality—i.e., Whitney Houston, elegant diva—stamped all over it.

The term "diva" is closely related to the word divine and everything it implies. Thus, we can assume that, to be a diva, one has to be an Olympian, so to speak, in terms of voice, performance, and over-all flair.

Honestly, how many local female singers do you know who fit that bill? Certainly not as many as the so-called divas belting away in Viva Records' unplugged collection of croon-y love songs, "Acoustic Divas."

12 tracks

This 12-track CD is, all in all, a diverting enough compilation of generally pleasantly-sung ballads. It's easy on the ear from the first track to the last and there's no doubt that every singer included here is a capable performer. Whether they all deserve to be called divas is another question altogether—but important, given the album's title.

Regine Velasquez tops the track listing with a "very Regine" version of Ogie Alcasid's "Pangako." Rendered in her signature high, clear style, with the expected vocal pyrotechnics, she succeeded in making the song hers. She's a diva in our book, not only on the strength of this one song, but because of her previous track record as well.

ACOUSTIC
DIVAS
TOP female belters are showcased in the 12-track CD.

Other notable diva-level performances are those given by Jaya ("Honesty"), Zsa Zsa Padilla ("Sa Kanya"), Rachel Alejandro ("Somebody"), Kuh Ledesma ("Miles Away"), and Lani Misalucha ("Bukas Na Lang Kita Mamahalin").

Jaya's lower and thicker voice in the sentimental Billy Joel classic is a soothing contrast to Regine's pyrotechnics. Her voice and singing style are likewise distinctive, though this song doesn't really stretch her vocal chords that much.

Majority vote

In "Sa Kanya," Zsa Zsa's husky soprano is showcased, while in "Somebody" it is Rachel's highly individual smooth-but-with-a-hint-of-huskiness voice. The former, everybody tells us, is definitely a diva. We're not quite that impressed with Zsa Zsa's abilities, but we defer to the majority vote. In any case, she has certainly developed her own style through the years.

Rachel, on the other hand, is naturally equipped with lung-bursting equipment but hasn't quite attained the fame and adoration expected of divas. Still, she has more years to make up for it.

Kuh Ledesma's performance of "Miles Away" is subdued compared to the others', but it certainly doesn't lack punch. She isn't as frequently heard now as she was before, but there's no denying the vocal capabilities that mark her a genuine diva.

Virtuoso voice

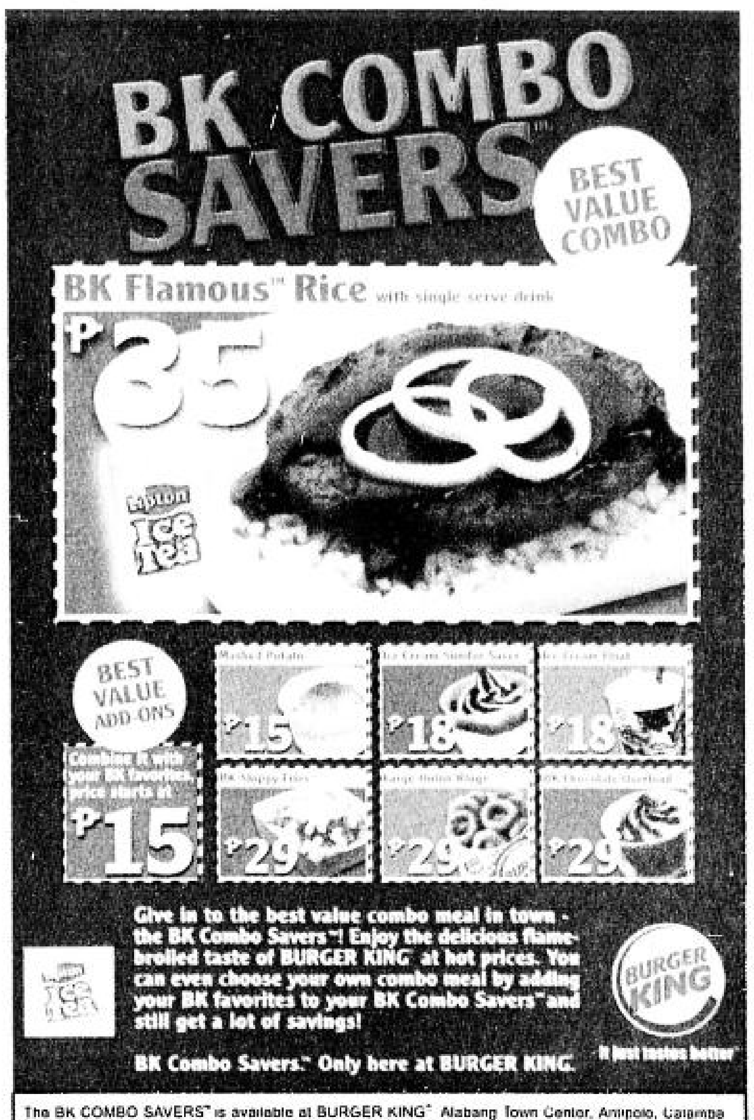
Lani Misalucha sounds the album's end note with her rendering of "Bukas Na Lang Kita Mamahalin." She has a virtuoso voice that seems to dip and soar effortlessly. She's a diva, all right.

Sharon's performance of "The Promise" is not up to the level of those previously mentioned, but it's one of the tracks we liked most because her accompaniment stayed appropriately in the background. This track is the most unplugged-sounding of the lot.

Jinky Vidal's "So Slow," for example, had a much fussier accompaniment that at times overshadowed her voice. This is true even for some of the tracks we noted earlier. We don't like hearing studio-sounding songs in an acoustic album.

As we mentioned before, this album has a generally pleasant tone. There are no obviously untalented people here, and everything sounds smooth and professional.

Still, there's nothing very memorable about it as a whole. Maybe it's the packaging, the track choices, or the artists, but there's little that holds it together as an album.



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HBO receives seven Golden Globe awards

HBO received seven Golden Globe Awards and emerged the biggest winner with seven out of 11 TV trophies in the 60th annual Golden Globe Awards that were announced in Los Angeles.

THURMAN. Cited for her powerful performance in "Hysterical Blindness."

Viewers in Asia can look forward to the new season of "Six Feet Under" and "Sex and the City." HBO is currently showing a special "Sex and the City" trilogy with three episodes back to back, every Tuesday, starting at 10 p.m.

Awardees

HBO's Golden Globe awards this year include: Best Mini-Series or Motion Picture Made for Television: "The Gathering Storm;" Best Television Series—Musical or Comedy: "Curb Your Enthusiasm;" Best Performance by an Actress in a Mini-Series or a Motion Picture Made for Television: Uma Thurman, "Hysterical Blindness;" Best Performance by an Actress in a Television Series—Drama: Edie Falco, "The Sopranos;"

Best Performance by an Actor in a Mini-Series or Motion Picture Made for Television: Albert Finney, "The Gathering Storm;" Best Performance by an Actress In a Supporting Role in a Series, Mini-Series or Motion Picture Made for Television: Kim Cattrall, "Sex And The City"; Best Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role in A Series, Min-Series or Motion Picture Made for Television: Donald Sutherland, "Path To War."

New . . .

• From page D8

released on a Saturday. So eager fans will not have to miss a day off from school or work to buy the new book.

By then, most will likely know the first few sentences—"The hottest day of the summer so far was drawing to a close and a drowsy silence lay over the large, square houses of Privet Drive."—by heart.

For Scholastic Corp., a New York-based publisher of children's and educational books and the top operator of book fairs in US schools, Potter has been a huge success.

Four titles

The four titles generated combined US hardcover and paperback sales of about 80 million copies, Scholastic spokeswoman Judy Corman said. It was their dominance of the US fiction market that prompted the New York Times to launch a bestseller list for children's titles.

"In fiscal 2001 when this title peaked, it contributed $200 million in sales . . . about 10 percent of their total sales" Merrill Lynch analyst Fine said. That year, the fourth title was published in hardcover and the second title in paperback.

The success of the series has also been a significant driver for Scholastic's stock, which topped out at nearly $57 in April 2002, up nearly three-fold during the main run of the first four books. *Reuters*

Fiber gets better!

Did you know that Inu-Fiber can put your kids on the road to better growth & development?

Much have been discovered about the nutritional benefits of fibers. While a lot of have been reported and used for food fortification, not much consumers have learned that fiber has superior efficiency in increasing calcium absorption in the human body.

A rigorous research done by European food and nutrition experts have led to the discovery of **Inulin Fiber** - a breakthrough active ingredient now applied to consumer products on a global scale.

What is Inulin Fiber?

Inulin Fiber is a natural soluble fiber extracted from organically-grown vegetables and, therefore, not genetically modified. Experts rule out that this wonder fiber contain technological properties and surprising nutritional benefits.

They cite that **Inulin** is a dietary fiber not digested in the stomach or small intestine. However, because it is completely fermented in the colon, it contributes to a better gut function, improves regularity and reduces constipation.

Inulin is selectively fermented by Bifidobacteria, and helps boost the total number of these micro-organisms present in the colon. Bifidobacteria are known to have a number of beneficial effects on our health.

Because **Inulin Fiber** passes through the upper gastro-intestinal tract intact and is selectively fermented in the intestines, it causes a sensitive change of the microfloral composition of the colon.

Nutritional Benefits

Enriched **Inulin Fiber** (or Inu-Fiber) has three key nutritional benefits:

– It increases calcium absorption. This active ingredient supports the body growth of your kids by helping increase bone density and improving calcium uptake. It helps them build stronger bones for the rest of their lives.

– It stimulates good internal function. This active ingredient stimulates the growth of helpful bacteria that stimulates the good functioning of your kids. It is a well-deserved food with a built-in treasure of essentials your children need to build up their digestive resistance.

– It energizes the body and the mind. This active fiber really works for an energetic and balanced body functioning ensuring a healthy body going with a healthy mind.

In essence, **Inulin Fiber** helps to improve the bone mineral density, support a healthy gut and stimulates beneficial bacteria to the body.

Food Applications

Having confidence in the health benefits of **Inulin Fiber**, food manufacturers all over the world have begun to reap these benefits as a showcase of social responsibility.

Inulin Fiber is now used in a wide range of product categories such as spreads, biscuits, yogurts, bakery goods, dairy drinks, and processed meat products.

Health experts rule that a person needs to have an intake of 20 to 35 grams of fiber a day. According to a World Health Organization report, almost everyone in the world eats less than the recommended dietary allowance of fiber.

Most Asians do not traditionally include fiber-rich foods in the breakfast menu, while most Asian children have great cravings for rice and processed meats in their morning meals.

The Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI) notes that a well-nourished child is healthy, strong, and alert, has good disposition, and grows at a normal rate. A poorly nourished child exhibits sluggish if not permanently delayed physical and mental development.

Experts recommend: Serve food with **Inulin Fiber** to your kids and put them on the roadmap to better growth and development.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY*Special*

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM JAN 25-JAN 31

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	29	31
	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Arriba, Arriba 8:30 Bida si Mister, Bida si Misis 9:30 FPJ Action Cinema 11:00 "F" 11:30 Sports Unlimited	6:00 Yan Ang Pinoy 7:00 14th Asian Games (Replay) 11:00 Business and Leisure	7:00 Sailormoon Sailor Stars 7:30 Family Feud 8:30 Wow Mali! 9:30 Saturday Night Specials *Dynamite Johnson* 11:30 Star Trek Voyager	6:00 Dragon Ball Z 6:30 Imbestigador 7:30 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:30 Kakabakaba 9:30 Blockbuster Cinema 11:20 Flash Report 11:30 Master Showman	6:00 Real TV 6:30 Entertainment Tonite 7:00 Largo 8:00 7 Days 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse *Pope John Paul II*	7:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 8:00 Star For A Night 9:00 Viva Box Office 11:00 Kagat ng Dilim	6:00 Travel Time 6:30 The Beast Machines 7:00 Game Plan 7:30 7th Heaven 8:30 Boston Public 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 11:30 Real Deal	7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras Ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 E! News Weekend 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story *John Candy* 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 E! News Weekend
	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanataym 8:30 Home Along Da Riles 9:30 Sunday Family Cinemas 11:30 Off The Record 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 14th Asian Games (Replay) 11:00 Unlimited Driving	6:00 Zorro 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Price Is Right 8:00 Sing-Galing 9:00 The Big Night *American Me* 11:00 Speed	5:30 Partners Mel & Jay 7:00 KI 8:30 Daddy Di Do Du 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office *Oscar* 11:20 Flash Report 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6:00 Entertainment This Weekend 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Match TV 9:00 Sunday's Big Event *Brit Awards* 11:00 Road Trip	6:00 PBA Games 8:00 Sinemaks 9:30 Viva's Hot Hits 11:00 El Shaddai	6:00 Invasion America 6:30 Digital Tour 7:00 Exposed 8:00 Yes Dear 8:30 Just Shoot Me 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 The West Wing 10:30 Scariest Places on Earth 11:30 News Central	7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night movies	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 E! Original Special 8:00 Rank *Entertainers 2002* 9:00 Revealed w/ Jules Asner *Salma Hayek* 10:00 Movies on E! *The Chairman*
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:00 Bituin 7:30 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 Alias 10:30 Night Visions 11:00 Headlines	6:00 14th Asian Games (Replay) 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 PBL	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 F 7:00 Mahha Go Go Go 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Bugs 9:30 Trabaho Lang 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Two	6:00 Frontpage 6:40 Habang Kapiling Ka 7:20 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw 8:00 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:40 Kung Mawawala Ka 9:20 Magpakailanman 10:30 Saksi 11:00 I-Witness	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Wyred 6:30 Hot Ticket 7:00 Simpsons 8:00 Jag 9:00 24 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Sex & the City	6:00 PBA Games 9:00 The Weakest Link 10:00 IBC News 11:00 Ronda Treso	6:00 The Three Stooges 6:30 Voltron:3rd Dimension 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 Bully 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Behind The Scenes 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 FYE 10:00 Best of Late Show 11:00 Wild On *Heart of Dixie*
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:00 Bituin 7:30 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 OK Fine! Whatever 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Pipol	6:00 14th Asian Games (Replay) 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 14th Asian Games (Replay) 11:00 Auto Focus	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Dragon League 7:00 2 Years Vacation w/ Dinosaurs 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 E.R. 9:30 Urban Doktor 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Mad TV	6:00 Frontpage 6:30 Habang Kapiling Ka 7:00 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw 7:30 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:00 Kung Mawawala Ka 8:30 Magpakailanman 9:00 Kool Ka Lang 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Probe Team	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Wyred 6:30 Entertainment Tonite 7:00 Ed 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Real TV	6:00 Carita de Angel 7:00 Crayon Shin Chan 8:00 Kurochan 9:00 The Weakest Link 10:00 Diwa 11:00 IBC News 11:30 Travel and Trade	6:00 The Three Stooges 6:30 Voltron:3rd Dimension 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 Dawson's Creek 9:00 Smallville 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Twilight Zone	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Extreme Close Up 7:30 Mysteries and Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 FYE 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *Heartland*
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:00 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7:30 Bituin 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 Whattamen 9:30 Klasmeyts 10:30 Headlines	6:00 14th Asian Games (Replay) 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 MMDA on The Road 11:00 Magbuhay Professional 11:30 Concert at the Park	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Pygmalio 7:00 Time Quest 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Friends 9:00 That's 70's Show 9:30 Planet X 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Task Force Siyasat	6:00 Frontpage 6:40 Habang Kapiling Ka 7:20 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw 8:00 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:40 Kung Mawawala Ka 9:20 Bah Bale Nga 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Jessica Soho Reports	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Wyred 6:30 Entertainment Tonite 7:00 Sabrina 8:00 Roswell 9:00 Fugitive 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Real TV 11:00 Wrestling	6:00 PBA Games 9:30 The Weakest Link 10:00 IBC News 10;30 Viva's Hot Hits 11:00 IBC News 11:30 People First	6:00 The Three Stooges 6:30 Voltron 3rd Dimension 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 Dark Angel 9:00 The X-Files 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Twilight Zone	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:30 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Behind the Scenes 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 FYE 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *East Coast*
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:00 Bituin 7:30 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 Maalaala Mo Kaya 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Isyu 101	6:00 14th Asian Games (Replay) 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 PBL	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Shulato 7:00 Fancy Lala 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Guinness World Records 9:30 Single 10:00 The Big News 10:30 By Request *Slapshock (OPM)*	6:00 Frontpage 6:40 Habang Kapiling Ka 7:20 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw 8:00 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:40 Kung Mawawala Ka 9:20 Da Boy and Da Girl 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Debate	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Wyred 6:30 Entertainment Tonite 7:00 Clueless 7:30 Sister, Sister 8:00 Felicity 9:00 Once and Again 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Real TV	6:00 Carita de Angel 7:00 Crayon Shin Chan 8:00 Kurochan 9:00 The Weakest Link 10:00 S.A.T.S.U. 11:00 IBC News 11:30 Good Take	6:00 The Three Stooges 6:30 Beast Machines 7:00 Amazing Race 8:00 Barkada Nights 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Twilight Zone	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:30 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Extreme Close-Up 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 FYE 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *Wild on! Las Vegas*
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Game K N B? 7:00 Bituin 7:30 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 8:00 Sa Puso ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:00 Star Cinema Presents 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Gus Abelgas Nag-uulat	6:00 Paco Park Presents 7:00 The Working President 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 14th Asian Games (Replay)	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Lazer Patrol 7:00 Starcom 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Ispup 9:30 On-air 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Friday Box Office *Chasers*	6:00 Frontpage 6:40 Habang Kapiling Ka 7:20 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw 8:00 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga 8:40 Kung Mawawala Ka 9:20 Bubble Gang 10:30 Saksi 11:00 Emergency	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Wyred 6:30 Entertainmnet Tonight 7:00 That's Life 8:00 Malcolm In The Middle 8:30 Dharma & Greg 9:00 NYPD Blue 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 TV Greats on Friday	6:00 PBA Games 9:30 The Weakest Link 10:30 Viva Hot Hits 11:00 IBC News 11:30 Mode + L	6:00 The Three Stooges 6:30 Beast Machines 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Justice League 8:00 Survivor: Thailand 9:00 Angel 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Twilight Zone	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Behind the Scenes 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 FYE 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *Wild on!: The Finals*

Kara can serve

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

DEAR Clara,

Two weeks ago, I went to the launching of the second volume of your cousin Kara Magsanoc-Alikpala's "I Can Serve" book at the Hidalgo bldg. at Rockwell, even if it meant being late for my taping of "Heart to Heart." I'm glad I did:

Residency

Kara was born in Philadelphia, where your *Tito* Carlitos took his residency. Being the firstborn, she was the apple of her family's eye. And the first time I saw her, it was apparent that she was a mini version of her mom.

She had her mother's eyes as well as that kind of distant demeanor that wasn't snobbish but immediately told people who didn't know their place exactly where it was.

I remember, when she came to Manila, Kara had this most endearing American twang and I just loved talking to her, if only to listen to its "music."

As I recall, I couldn't understand what she meant when she proudly announced, "We rode a cab in New York." That was the first time I learned that a taxi was called that. I thought a cab was a carnival ride like the merry-go-round and the roller coaster.

Adventurous streak

I've always known Kara to have this adventurous streak. Her first plane ride was when she was barely four years old—a trans-atlantic flight from the US to Manila. And she was all by her lonesome on the plane—given to the care of a stewardess.

After high school, she and Dolly flew to Paris to learn French, and about independence and life in general. They stayed there for the summer, boarding in a little flat owned by a French lady who doted on them like they were her own daughters.

Because of that experience, it wasn't surprising that Dolly took up AB Linguistics, major in French, in college. As for Kara, she earned a journalism degree— no doubt a tribute to her mom, whom she adored. Indeed, at that time, your *Tita* Letty was already creating a

KARA/ D7

Focus on the sexbomb and the prince

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

OUR Q&A this week:

From Robert Gomez of Bulacan, "Kindly feature Aira Bermudez of the Sex Bomb Dancers: profile, how she was discovered, ideal guy, etc. Where can I write her?"

Aira has been joining—and winning—amateur dance contests since she was 12. She recalls, *"Basta, sayaw lang ako ng sayaw. Hanggang sa makita ako ni* Ms. Joy Cancio (manager/choreographer of Sex Bomb Girls) *sa isang* contest *at inalok akong sumama sa* Sex Bomb. I called her after one month."

Breadwinner

The breadwinner of her family, Aira reveals that she's not close to her U.S.-based father. It's a good thing she enjoys earning while dancing. She is one of the more popular of the girls. Who is closest to her? She says, *"Pinakamalapit sa akin sina* Mia Pangyarihan *at* Rochelle Panganiban." Does she want to go solo? *"Mas maganda kung magkakasama kaming grupo!"*

Capsule profile. Name: Eiraraz "Aira" Bermudez. Born: Sept 6, 1983, Manila. She's third among five siblings. Height: 5'3". Weight: 110 lbs. School: Torres High School. Ideal man: Doesn't have to be very handsome. *Basta malinis, hindi mayabang.* Crush: Richard Gutierrez.

Likes: *Marunong makisama, totoong tao.* Dislikes: *Plastik*. Actors: Tom Cruise, Angelina Jolie. Singer: Ashanti. Embarrassing moments: *"Nagsasayaw kaming naka-paa noon habang umuulan at bumabaha. E, madulas. Nadapa ako bigla! Pero tumayo agad ako at nag-project na lang."*

You can write her at: 753-A Interior 26, Raxa Bago St., Tondo, Manila.

From Luenamme Jay, "Please tell me more about Mathew St. Patrick of "Six Feet Under."

From Tonette Esquero, "Is he gay?"

PRINCE William has been voted Britain's handsomest royal.

ST. PATRICK plays a gay cop in "Six Feet Under."

Mathew St. Patrick, born on March 17 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, wore different hats in L.A. before he got his break as an actor—he was a personal trainer, a waiter and a bartender. He became a favorite of casting directors in commercials, and landed high-profile projects for Gatorade, Heineken, and Cadillac, among others.

Nominations

He moved to New York when he won a role in the soap, "All My Children." That brought him two Image Awards nominations for his performance. In 2000, he began work on HBO's Golden Globe winner, "Six Feet Under," about a dysfunctional family of morticians. Although Mathew plays an openly gay police officer of the LAPD, who is the love of David Fisher's (played by Michael C. Hall) life, he is not gay.

Films: "Virtuosity" (with Denzel Washington); "Steel Sharks"; "Surface to Air." TV: "Moesha" (with Brandy); "Beverly Hills 90210;" "NYPD Blues" and "General Hospital."

Prince William

From Samantha Nikolai Adams, "Please write about Prince William. What is his contact number?"

His Royal Highness Prince William of Wales (William Arthur Philip Louis Mountbatten Windsor), born June 21, 1982 (9:03 PM) at St. Mary's Hosp, London, will most likely be called William V if he ascends to the throne. Height: 6'3" Weight: 140 lbs. Eyes: blue-hazel. Hair: Sandy blonde.

Voted Britain's handsomest royal and one of People's most beautiful, he is one of the top 100 swimmers in England. In school, he played Napoleon Bonaparte and acted in a production of Shakespeare's "The Tempest."

The only possible way to get in touch with him is through postal mail. Try these: St. James Palace, London SW1A IBS, UK or Buckingham Palace, London SW1A IAA, UK.

Feedback

Reader Mary Ann Jabson tells us that Halle Berry did not compete in the Ms America pageant, as was written in our feature on the Oscar-winning beauty queen, but in the Ms USA contest (where Halle placed 1st Runner-Up and went on to represent the US in the 1986 Ms. World Pageant), which sends contestants to the Ms. Universe and Ms. World competitions. Mary Ann is right.

When we checked further, we also learned that, while Halle may not have won the Ms. World title (Ms. Trinidad Giselle La Ronde clinched it), she was, nonetheless, a winner, placing 4th Runner-Up.

Ms USA '86 Christy Fitchner competed in the Ms. Universe contest that year and left the competition in a huff after being defeated by Ms. Venezuela Barbara Palacios Teyde for the crown.

'Spoliarium' opens at CCP on Feb. 21

From page D7

his first major opera. Seña has been singing lead roles in musicals both here and abroad for years now, capped by the plum parts of The Engineer in "Miss Saigon" and Judas in "Jesus Christ Superstar," in London, England.

For her part, Ana has done her share of original Filipino musicals like "Magnificat" and "Alikabok," with verve and distinction, thanks to her innate talent and sensitivity—and to the love for performance inculcated in her by her parents, Johnny Delgado and Laurice Guillen.

Combination

The combination of good songs, strong performances and inspired choice of venue made last Wednesday's operatic interlude a memorable experience. We trust that, when the opera is staged in full next month, it will be similarly outstanding.

"Spoliarium" is presented by the Opera Guild Foundation of the Philippines, Music Theater Foundation, and the Cultural Center. Performances at the CCP are at 8 p.m. on Feb 21-23 and 3 p.m. on Feb. 22 and 23, and at St. Cecilia's Hall, St. Scholastica's College at 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. on Feb. 28. Call Music Theater Foundation at 421-1898, Opera Guild Foundation at 817-4823, and the CCP at 832-3704.

Other cast members include Gamaliel Viray as Don Antonio, Josephine Roces-Chavez as Marie, John Mulhall as Felix, and Franz Pineda and Miguel Avila alternating as Luling.

Production credits: lights by Shoko Matsumoto, production design by Gino Gonzales, sound by Gerry Fernandez, and choreography by Alejandro Alvis.

'Sex and the City' to end after six years

LOS ANGELES—Producers of the hit US television sitcom "Sex in the City" are axing the show after six years on the small screen, with the final episode to air early next year, the industry press said Wednesday.

The HBO cable channel show, featuring a group of New York gal pals, will exit after one last 20-episode season that will begin shooting in the Big Apple in March, Daily Variety said.

Many countries

The channel decided to end the show, which has achieved a near cult following in many countries across the globe, after the "creative forces" behind it indicated they were running out of steam. AFP

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'Spoliarium' opens at CCP on Feb. 21

By Nestor U. Torre

LAST Wednesday, we attended a unique cultural event, the staging of choice excerpts of the new opera "Spoliarium (Juan Luna)," at the National Museum.

It was an inspired idea to hold the brief preview of three scenes from the opera in the museum's Luna Room, right in front of the original Spoliarium painting that is the new neoclassic romantic opera's thematic linchpin and inspiration.

Excerpts

Viewing the excerpts as dramatically contexttualized by Luna's famous masterpiece served to galvanized the scenes in a truly special way that vivified the passionate heart and soul of the libretto (in English) by Fides Cuyugan-Asensio, and the soaring, tumultuous music composed by Ryan Cayabyab. The bravos at the end of the brief preview were well-earned.

It was also a distinct pleasure to hear relatively new opera performers essaying the lead roles in "Spoliarium"—Robert Seña as Luna, and Ana Guillen Feleo as his wife, Paz Luna y Pardo de Tavera (alternating with Margarita Yulo Gomez).

Other singers

Other singers last Wednesday were Alan Dale Alojipan as Jose Rizal (alternating with Miguel Vera), Bonggoy Manahan as Trinidad Pardo de Tavera, and Kitchy Molina as Doña Juliana Pardo de Tavera (alternating with Fides Cuyugan-Asensio. The new opera is directed by Alexander Cortez.

Seña's electric singing and intense acting thrilled the people present, some of whom were surprised to learn that this is

'SPOLIARIUM'/ D6

FELEO. Love for performance.

SEÑA. Intense.

> It was a bright idea to hold the brief preview of three scenes in the musuem's Luna Room, right in front of the original Spoliarium painting that is its thematic linchpin and inspiration

Kara . . .

From page D6

name for herself as a crusading journalist with more balls than some of her male colleagues.

After graduation, Kara went on to carve her own niche. She started out with CheChe Lazaro's Probe Productions and did a lot of relevant and meaningful stories. I remember, there was a time when I planned to produce a children's show with you and your little cousins. I wanted Kara to help me out with it, but I felt the project was a little too trite and trivial for her.

Blessing

Kara is such a darling niece. You and Dolly know this—I envy Letty for having Kara for a daughter. And Kara was a real blessing to me when I fell ill. I'll forever treasure in my heart how she went the extra mile to make me comfortable. She brought to the hospital the fluffiest pillows, toiletries, and a cosmetics bag where she put all of my colorful girlie things.

Gather all the love there is on earth and in heaven and it can all fit in Kara's heart. That's why, when she was diagnosed to have the dreaded disease, I was devastated. It took forever to sink in that she was struck with breast cancer.

I couldn't believe it. I couldn't accept it. When I prayed to God, I quarreled with Him. I could name at least a dozen people who were more deserving of divine "cruelty," and a dozen more who ought to be punished for their misdeeds and transgressions! Why Kara—who was so sweet, so kind, so generous? Why her—who, early on, had already demonstrated her vast potential for making this world a better place for everyone?

I remember, I shed a river when I learned that, at some point of all too human weakness, Kara herself was on the verge of giving up. In between sobs, she told her mom, "It's so hard to pretend to be brave."

Silence

For a long while there, that did me in. I stormed the gates of heaven and demanded a word with God. His response was deafening silence. Only later did I realize that He was silent so that I could listen. But I didn't, for a long time. I just refused to.

Good thing that Kara a had faith that must be as big as a mustard *tree*! That faith, she must have gotten from her mom. I remember how strong and steadfast was the faith of your *Tita* Letty—who, I believe, has a direct line to heaven. When your *Lolo* Nich was fighting in the Korean War, she bargained with God, vowing never to wear make-up, just so He'd spare your *lolo* from near-certain death.

Indeed, for one year at least, Letty was faithful to her bargain with the Lord. She never touched her face with make-up—not even a daub of lipstick or a breath of facial powder. And your *Lolo* Nich came back safe—a hero due to his courageous exploits in the war.

Yes, Letty did that for our dad. I didn't ask, but I'm sure she sacrificed even more for her daughter. And God listened. Kara is not only healed—she is cured.

And the dam of blessings overflowed. One day, I received the wedding invitation—and Kara marched to the altar with the love of her life, Dondi, who patiently waited and held her hand all through her great crisis.

Reception

It was a quiet, solemn wedding in a quaint glass chapel in Subic. Some 500 guests joined the couple at the reception at the Subic Bay Yacht Club. The ceremony was marked by utter simplicity but the smiles of everyone betrayed the jubilant celebration deep in our hearts.

Then, Ariana came. She symbolized the blessing of life that her mom has been gifted with by the Lord—a life that is made more precious by each new day that comes complete with the beneficence of Him from whom all life emanates.

Clara, these were the thoughts that played in my mind that Wednesday afternoon at Rockwell. And as I saw the sense of triumph gleaming in Kara's eyes, I felt deeply for her. As I had identified with her pain before, I now empathized with her victory.

And I realized that God allowed Kara to go through the experience of wrestling with a loathsome disease not because He was being cruel or she deserved to be punished— but because He loves her.

For it was when Kara went through that experience that she gained the value and meaning of surrender, selflessness, humility and trust in God. As a result, Kara's capacity to serve the Lord in a more concrete and significant way has deepened even more.

The smile on Kara's face as I bade her goodbye that afternoon is etched in my mind. It was a smile that inspires, a smile that tells me and everyone, "I can serve."

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TV-Film Year 2002's most successful show business comebacks noted

By Ramon Bayron

2002 proved to be an acid test for the durability of the careers of three of show biz's biggest stars—Nora Aunor, Rudy Fernandez and Bong Revilla—who, in 2001, "abandoned" the entertainment world in favor of a chance to conquer new political "kingdoms," with eventually disastrous results.

Popularity

In the unlearned opinion of pundits, the elections were merely a contest of popularity. Therefore, if these stars weren't popular enough to garner many votes, it could only mean that their fans had also dumped them in favor of other stars.

But their recently "resurrected" show biz careers prove otherwise.

Rudy Fernandez ruled the box-office in Mayor Atienza's city-wide film fiesta.

Most versatile

Bong Revilla is our hands-down choice as this year's most versatile major action star after daring to leap where his contemporaries feared to tread, via a "butt-revealing" outing in his movie with Assunta de Rossi, then somersaulting back to GP territory in his festival entry, "Agimat."

The ex-governor can now rightfully claim to have garnered many more "votes" (in ticket sales, that is) than his former constituents in Cavite were willing to give him. Bong is a strong contender as 2002's Box-Office King.

And Nora Aunor proved that she is still Queen of Philippine entertainment as her soap-opera "Bituin" posted the highest rating with its premiere episode.

Diehard Noranians

How could the middleaged superstar upstage the younger drama princesses? Diehard Noranians cheerfully answer: "*May himala!*"

However, the most telling miracle in the rise, fall and resurrection of these three stars is the probability that the *masa* is now capable of distinguishing celluloid heroes from the real ones, and that they can separate their choices as voters and as fans. That's progress!

AUNOR. Successful return to the biz via television.

> How could the middle-aged superstar upstage the younger drama princesses? *'May himala!'*

New Potter book due in June

LONDON—Harry Potter fans will get a weighty fifth installment in J.K. Rowling's series about a boy wizard when "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix" is released on June 21, her publishers said on Wednesday.

Manuscript

Bloomsbury of Britain and Scholastic of the United States said the manuscript has finally been delivered for the book, which will be a third longer than the series' fourth installment, the 734-page "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire."

Potter fans have had to wait three years for "Order of the Phoenix," now set for release in Britain, the United States, Canada and Australia and other countries on the same June Saturday.

"Goblet of Fire," published in July 2000, was the fastest-selling book in history on the first weekend of its publication. Movie versions of the series' first two books, which adapted Rowlings' world of witches and wizards living in a world hidden to ordinary humans (known as Muggles) for the big screen, have grossed more than $1.7 billion.

"We expect it to be as popular as the previous four, and it will probably be more expensive and have higher margins (because of its size)," said SunTrust Robinson Humphrey analyst Frank Gristina.

Shares

Shares of Bloomsbury and Scholastic climbed on Wednesday as investors were relieved that the book's release was on the horizon at last. The series makes up a substantial portion of the publishers' revenues.

Since "Goblet of Fire" was published, Rowling has gotten married and is pregnant. Her baby is due this spring.

"The risk was that she is due to deliver her child in February, and if she hadn't gotten the manuscript in before that then the book might have been delayed," said Merrill Lynch analyst Lauren Rich Fine.

"It's always good to have a title in the summer—you're catching kids during summer break and that's when they do their pleasure reading," Fine added. "Luckily my kids aren't at the stage any more where I needed to FedEx (the books) to them at summer camp."

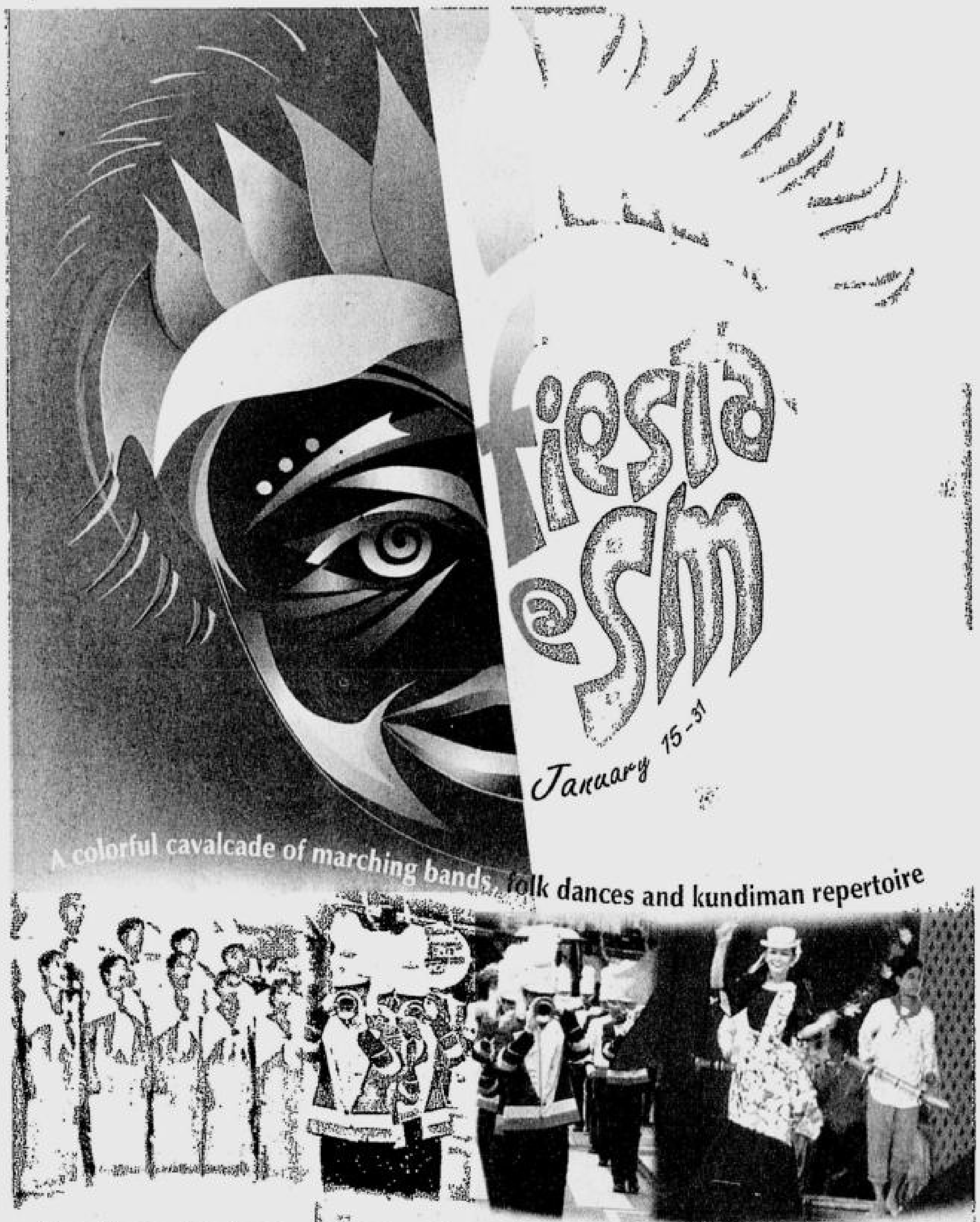
Bloomsbury's stock rose 27-1/2 pence, or 4 percent, to 720 pence on the London Stock Exchange. Scholastic shares were up $2.88, or 8.34 percent, to $37.41 in late-afternoon Nasdaq trading, on a day when most US media stocks were in negative territory.

"We knew the book was coming but the timing was not set," said Gristina. "Publishers trade on a multiple of forward earnings; now Scholastic can trade on Harry Potter earnings."

Interest

The British bookseller Waterstone's said that within two hours of the announcement "the interest has been phenomenal." Like "Goblet of Fire," "Order of the Phoenix" is being

NEW/ D5



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Kundiman Singers

Mall	Date
SM City North Edsa	Jan. 15
SM City Fairview	Jan. 17
SM City Bacoor	Jan. 18
SM Megamall	Jan. 24
SM Southmall	Jan. 25
SM City Manila	Jan. 26

Marching Bands

Mall	Date
SM Megamall	Jan. 15
SM City North Edsa	Jan. 17
SM Centerpoint	Jan. 18
SM Supercenter Sucat	Jan. 18
SM City Manila	Jan. 19
SM Southmall	Jan. 19
SM City Bacoor	Jan. 24
SM City Bicutan	Jan. 24
SM City Fairview	Jan. 26
SM City Pampanga	Jan. 26

Bayanihan Dancers

Mall	Date
SM City Fairview	Jan. 16
SM City Bacoor	Jan. 17
SM Supercenter Sucat	Jan. 18
SM Megamall	Jan. 19
SM Southmall	Jan. 22
SM City North Edsa	Jan. 24
SM Centerpoint	Jan. 25
SM City Bicutan	Jan. 26

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SUPERCENTER SUCAT ▲ CITY CEBU ▲ CITY ILOILO ▲ CITY DAVAO ▲ CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO ▲ CITY BICUTAN

SEAN Penn and Michelle Pfeiffer in "I Am Sam."

Viewers cite most memorable movies

By Leia Torre

(Conclusion)

"MY most memorable movie would have to be "For Love of Country," which features my most favorite topic in the world: passion for music. It tells the story of a very talented and famous Latin musician, Arthuro Sandoval. He plays the trumpet not only with his body, but also with his soul.

Cuban music

"I particularly enjoyed watching this movie since it featured Arthuro's most famous works. I also loved listening to his band's original compositions. Truly, Irakere is one of the best salsa bands in the world that features Cuban music.

"Being a musician myself, I want to believe that someday, like Arthuro Sandoval, I could play the music that I love, and that I could play it as well as he does (wishful thinking)."—*Floro Sernande Jr., 21.*

Refreshing

"'Amelie.' The actress who played Amelie was so refreshing, she was very talented but still unspoiled.

"I liked the movie for its magic realism, which made me relate to a lot of her feelings. The plot was also so endearing and funny: She's an expert in helping other people but not in helping herself."—*Elaine Mae Galvez, 20.*

Inspiring

"'I Am Sam.' That movie was so touching, depressing, hopeful, inspiring—everything. Sean Penn was very good in portraying the intellectually-challenged man who becomes a father—*sobrang* realistic *yung* portrayal *niya*, and it was not at all condescending.

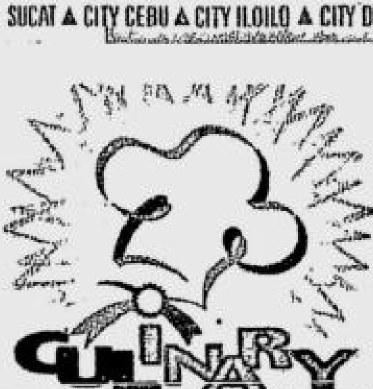
"*Maganda din yung* idea that the movie illustrated about human weakness: for example, *yung* character *ni* Michelle Pfeiffer. You can have financial security and be very good at your job, but fail to relate to your family. The movie showed *na* vulnerable *din pala yung mga tao na sobrang* self-assured.

"But what made the biggest impression on me was the love the father had for his daughter, which was vividly shown when he tried his best to better himself so he would be able to keep her."—*Christine Pascual, 26.*

Humanity

"'Bagong Buwan.' Being a Muslim living in a Christian community, I feel that, with this movie, we have finally been acknowledged as Filipinos who think and feel like other Filipinos. At the end, when Cesar Montano's character gave up his life for the Christian child, it reflected the humanity of Muslim people.

"The problem nowadays *kasi*, because of excessive media exposure and sensationalism, *nawawalan na ng* human face *ang mga* Muslim. We are perceived as barbarians, war freaks, etc. I hope that this movie is a very educational experience for viewers, so they can learn to get to know Muslims before they judge them."—*Rania Bahjin, 22.*



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SATURDAY

RYDER. Will co-star with Ray Romano in "Eulogy."

Winona Ryder to make movie comeback after shoplifting drama

She was sentenced to 480 hours of community service, fined $10,000 and given three years' probation

LOS ANGELES—Hollywood actress Winona Ryder is to make a screen comeback in a black comedy, her first acting job since she starred in a real-life courtroom drama in which she was convicted of shoplifting.

Upcoming comedy

Ryder, 31, has signed up to play a role opposite US television star Ray Romano in an upcoming comedy titled "Eulogy," the entertainment industry bible Daily Variety said Tuesday.

The movie, which will be written and directed by Michael Clancy, will also star veteran actors Debra Winger and Hank Azaria, as well as Monica Potter and Rip Torn.

Filming on the comedy, which tells the tale of three generations of a dysfunctional family that come together for the funeral of the family patriarch, is scheduled to start on Feb. 21, Variety reported.

Ryder was in November convicted of stealing more than $5,500 worth of clothing and luxury goods from a top Beverly Hills department store following one of the most sensational media trials of the year.

Community service

The Oscar-nominated star of films such as "Beetlejuice," "Reality Bites" and "Little Women" was sentenced to 480 hours of community service, fined $10,000 and given three years' probation for her crime.

The actress, who had denied all charges and who at one point allegedly said she had been training for a role as a shoplifter, was also ordered to undergo psychiatric and drug counseling.

Ryder's last movie was last year's "Mr. Deeds," starring Adam Sandler which was released before her highly publicized trial began in Beverly Hills.

Ryder has made more than 30 movies, including "Girl, Interrupted" and "Edward Scissorhands," and has twice been nominated for Oscars—for best actress in 1995's "Little Women" and for best supporting actress in 1993's "The Age of Innocence." *AFP*

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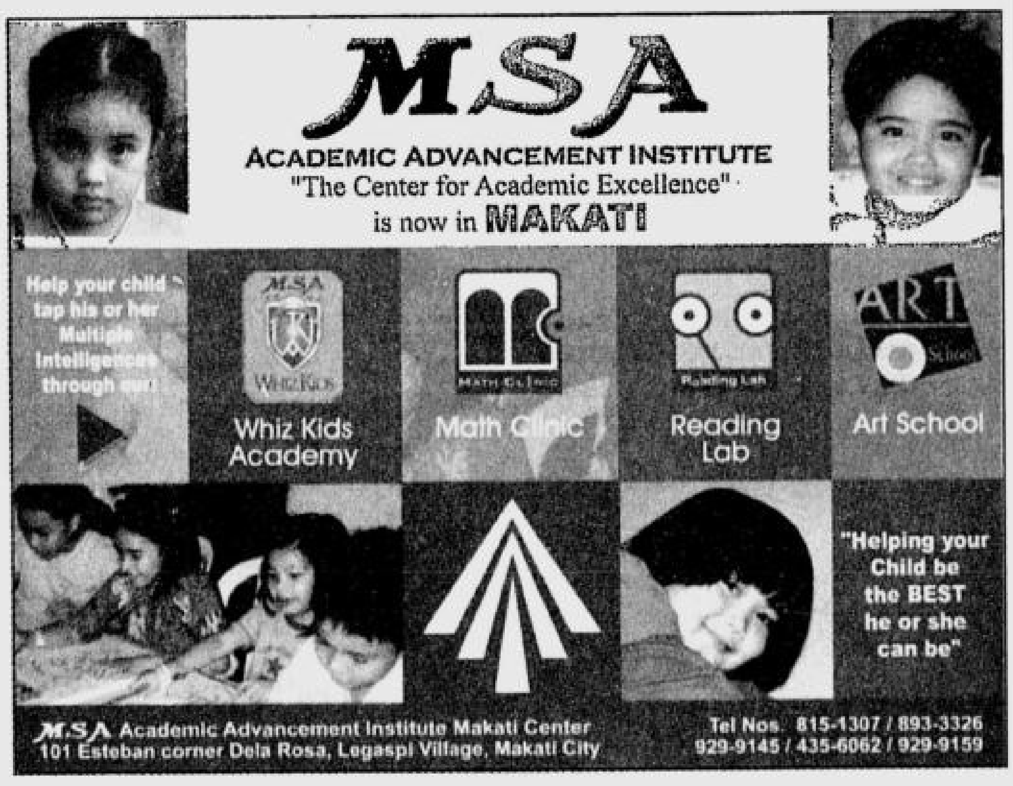

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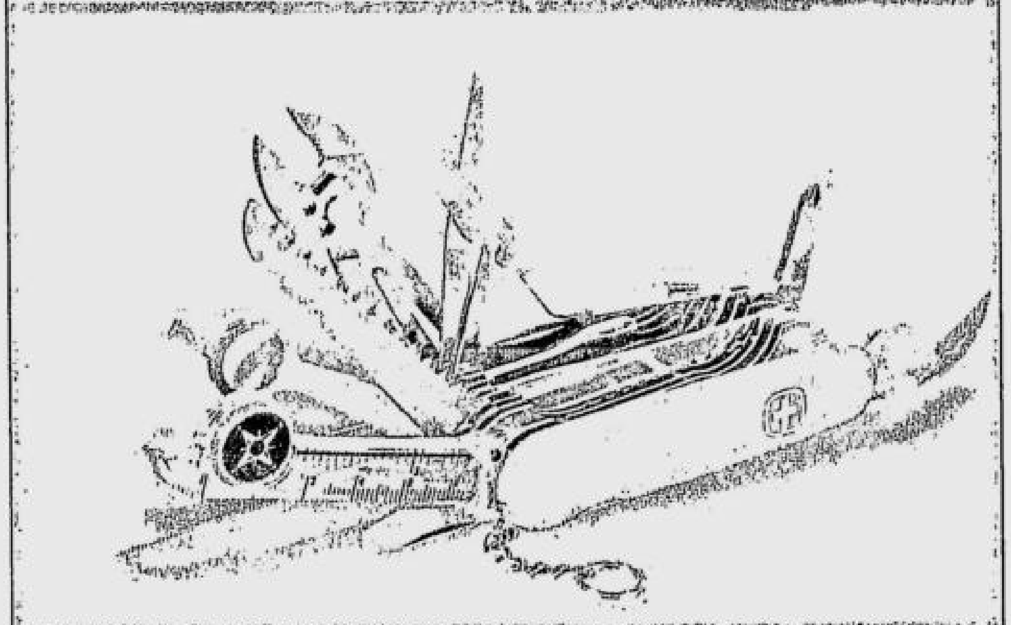
of Switzerland
SWISS KNIFE



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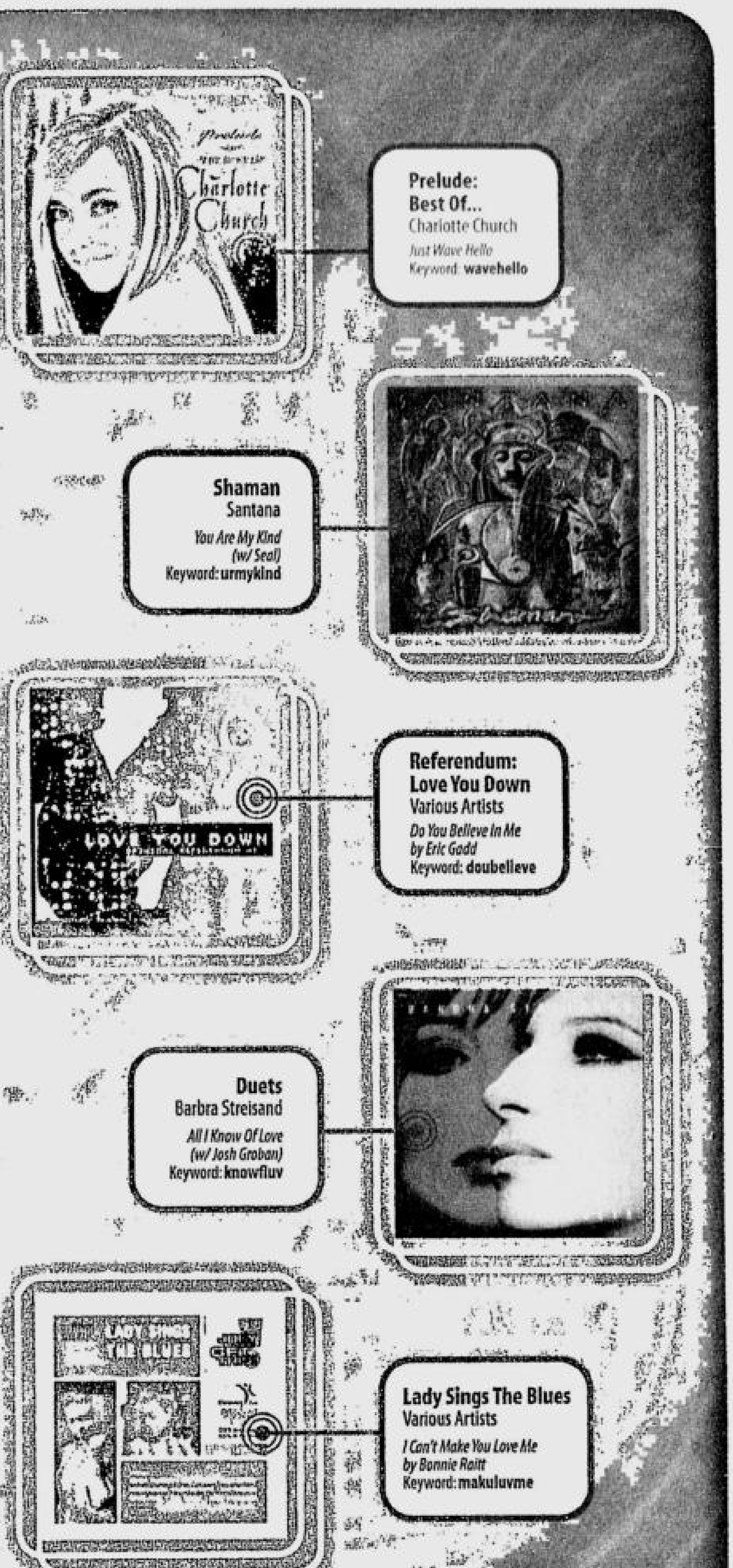

Prelude: Best Of...
Charlotte Church
Just Wave Hello
Keyword: wavehello

Shaman
Santana
You Are My Kind (w/ Seal)
Keyword: urmykind

Referendum: Love You Down
Various Artists
Do You Believe In Me by Eric Gadd
Keyword: doubelieve

Duets
Barbra Streisand
All I Know Of Love (w/ Josh Groban)
Keyword: knowfluv

Lady Sings The Blues
Various Artists
I Can't Make You Love Me by Bonnie Raitt
Keyword: makuluvme

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1 Greatest Hits: An Audio Visual Anthology
Regine Velasquez
keyword: *dadalhin*
2 Josh Groban
Josh Groban
keyword: *vincent*
3 Room For Squares: Limited Edition
John Mayer
4 This Is Me... Then
Jennifer Lopez
5 Come Away With Me
Norah Jones
keyword: *dontknowy*
6 Shaman
Santana
keyword: *urmykind*
7 It Had To Be You... The Great American Songbook
Rod Stewart
8 Hijas Del Tomate
Las Ketchup
keyword: *ketzupsong*
9 Piolo
Piolo Pascual
10 You Had Me At Hello
Various Artists
11 Let Go
Avril Lavigne
12 Only Selfless Love 2
Various Artists
13 More Than You Think You Are
Matchbox 20
keyword: *disease*
14 Referendum: Love You Down
Various Artists
keyword: *doubelieve*
15 Duets
Barbra Streisand
keyword: *knowfluv*
16 Masters Of Chant Chapter III
Gregonan
17 Prelude: Best Of
Charlotte Church
keyword: *wavehello*
18 Best Of 1990-2000
U2
19 Rivermaya: Live & Acoustic
Rivermaya
20 Simply The Best 60's
Various Artists
21 Lady Sings The Blues
Various Artists
keyword: *makuluvme*
22 Chicago Story: Complete Greatest Hits
Chicago
23 Beyond Words: Music Of Gary Valenciano
Various Artists
24 8 Mile - OST
Eminem
25 Charmbracelet
Mariah Carey

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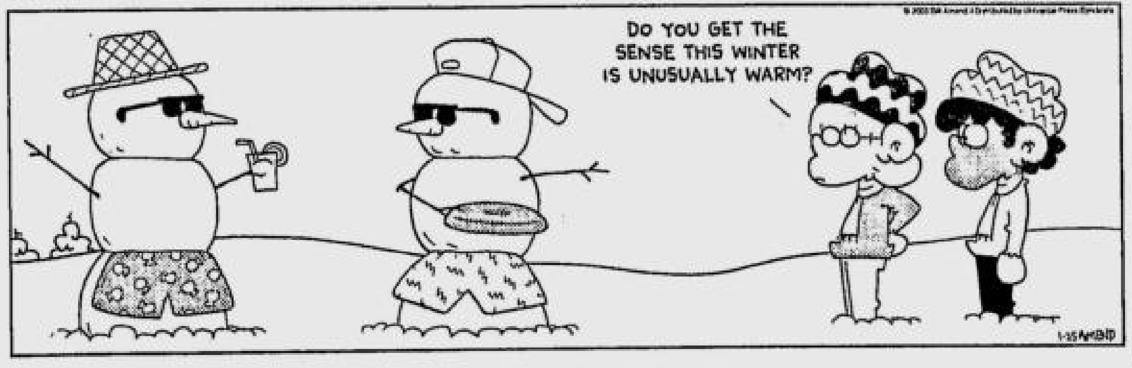
SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 2003

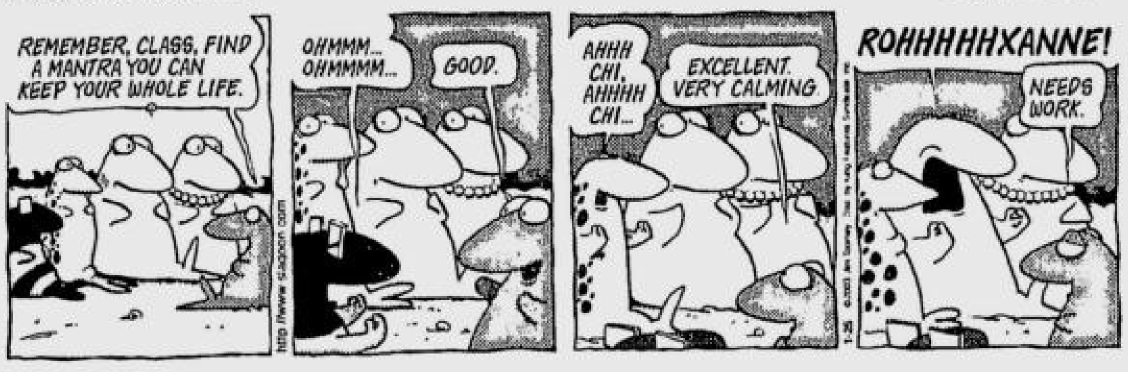
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


DO YOU GET THE SENSE THIS WINTER IS UNUSUALLY WARM?

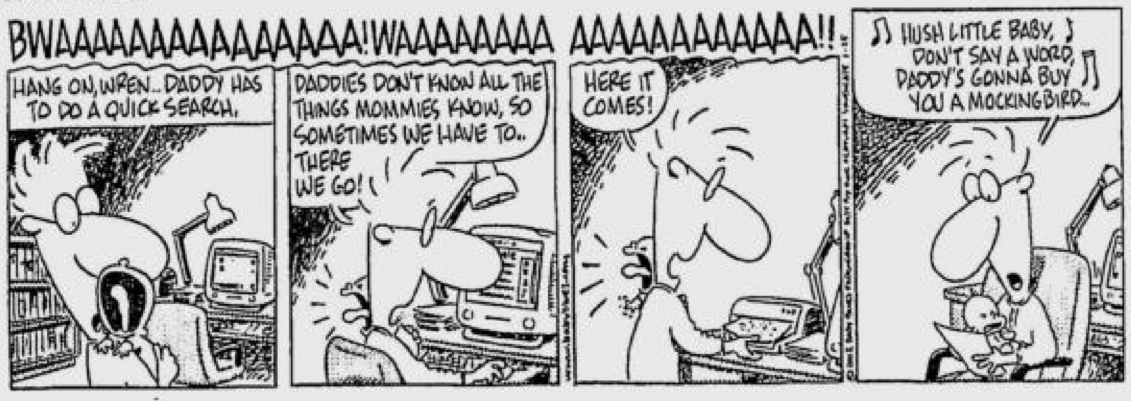
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


REMEMBER, CLASS, FIND A MANTRA YOU CAN KEEP YOUR WHOLE LIFE.
OHMMM... OHMMMM...
GOOD.
AHHH CHI, AHHHH CHI...
EXCELLENT. VERY CALMING.
ROHHHHHXANNE!
NEEDS WORK.

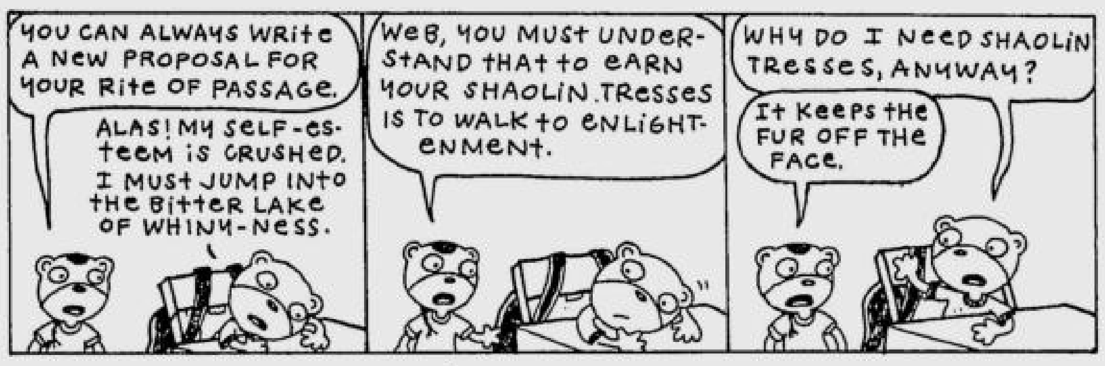
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


BWAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!WAAAAAAAA AAAAAAAAAAAA!!
HANG ON, WREN... DADDY HAS TO DO A QUICK SEARCH.
DADDIES DON'T KNOW ALL THE THINGS MOMMIES KNOW, SO SOMETIMES WE HAVE TO.. THERE WE GO!
HERE IT COMES!
♫ HUSH LITTLE BABY, DON'T SAY A WORD, DADDY'S GONNA BUY YOU A MOCKINGBIRD... ♫

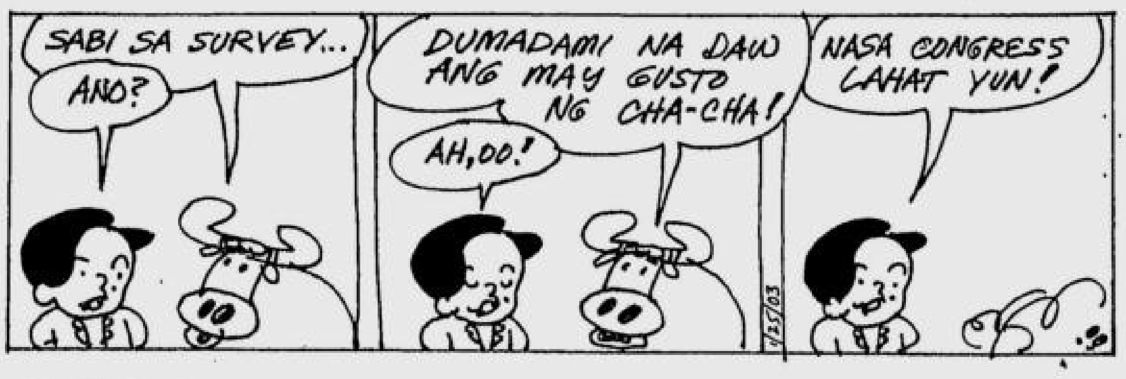
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


YOU CAN ALWAYS WRITE A NEW PROPOSAL FOR YOUR RITE OF PASSAGE.
ALAS! MY SELF-ESTEEM IS CRUSHED. I MUST JUMP INTO THE BITTER LAKE OF WHINY-NESS.
WEB, YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THAT TO EARN YOUR SHAOLIN TRESSES IS TO WALK TO ENLIGHTENMENT.
WHY DO I NEED SHAOLIN TRESSES, ANYWAY?
IT KEEPS THE FUR OFF THE FACE.

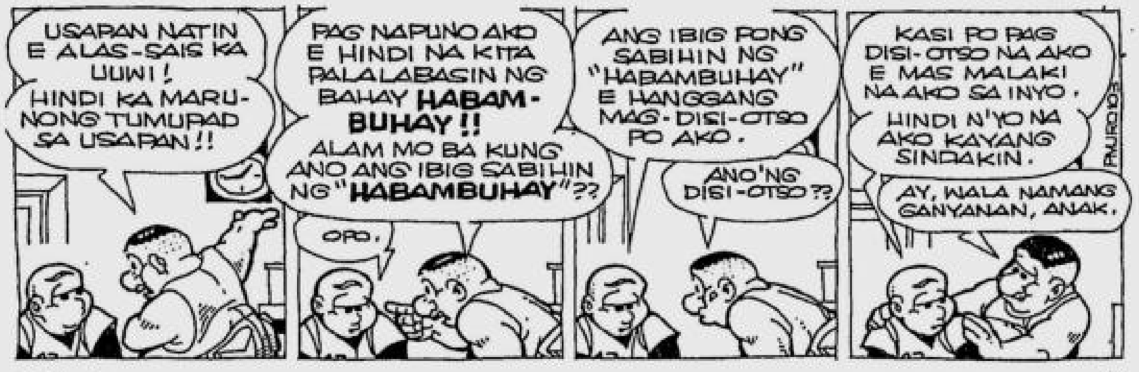
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


SABI SA SURVEY...
ANO?
DUMADAMI NA DAW ANG MAY GUSTO NG CHA-CHA!
AH, OO!
NASA CONGRESS LAHAT YUN!
1/25/03

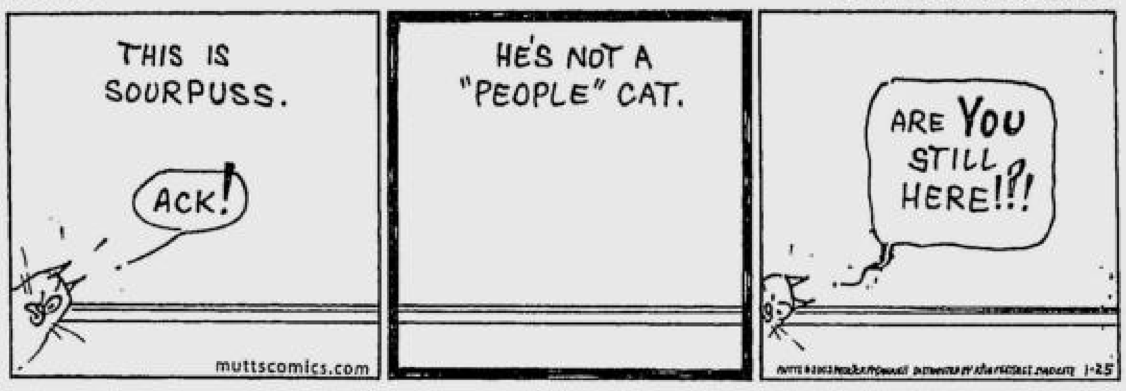
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


USAPAN NATIN E ALAS-SAIS KA UUWI!
HINDI KA MARUNONG TUMUPAD SA USAPAN!!
PAG NAPUNO AKO E HINDI NA KITA PALALABASIN NG BAHAY HABAMBUHAY!!
OPO.
ALAM MO BA KUNG ANO ANG IBIG SABIHIN NG "HABAMBUHAY"??
ANG IBIG PONG SABIHIN NG "HABAMBUHAY" E HANGGANG MAG-DISI-OTSO PO AKO.
ANO'NG DISI-OTSO??
KASI PO PAG DISI-OTSO NA AKO E MAS MALAKI NA AKO SA INYO.
HINDI N'YO NA AKO KAYANG SINDAKIN.
AY, WALA NAMANG GANYANAN, ANAK.

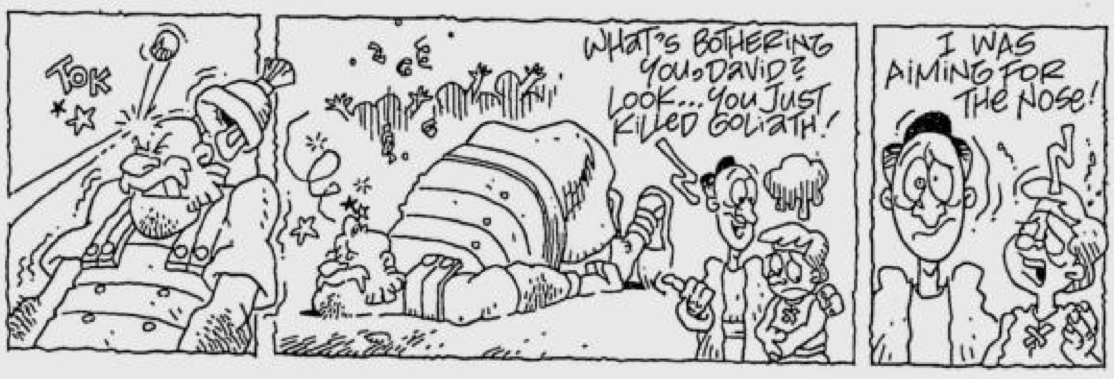
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


THIS IS SOURPUSS.
ACK!
HE'S NOT A "PEOPLE" CAT.
ARE YOU STILL HERE!?!
muttscomics.com
1-25

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


TOK
WHAT'S BOTHERING YOU, DAVID? LOOK... YOU JUST KILLED GOLIATH!
I WAS AIMING FOR THE NOSE!

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Alicia Keys, Dean Jones, Dinah Manoff, China Kantner

Happy Birthday: Don't let your accomplishments go to your head this year. Instead, continue to focus on forging ahead. Your greatest accomplishments will come through determination and dedication to whatever cause you believe in. Your numbers are 9, 15, 26, 29, 34, 38

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Romance will develop if you attend work-related events. Your desire for passion will be rewarded and you should receive sincere affection in return.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Get along better with the people you work with. As long as you don't divulge too much about your personal life, you will make some good allies.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You may find it difficult to be loyal today and if that is the case, keep a low profile and avoid events that could lead to trouble. Concentrate on artistic pursuits.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Spend time with someone you love. Focus on your goals. You can resolve a lot of issues by facing them head-on.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Changes regarding your position and emotional well-being may cause some confusion. Your ability to get into the swing of things will be your saving grace. Look forward and leave the past alone.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your ability to get along with others will not go unnoticed. You will be able to find a practical solution to a good friend's dilemma if you listen, observe and use common sense.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't leave anything lying around today. Loss and theft are evident and you must protect yourself. Secret affairs may be brought out in the open if you are too revealing.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Tempers are likely to escalate. You will have to be honest in order to avoid the backlash. Be straightforward and honest.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't waste your time trying to get others to do things your way. Rely on yourself and do what needs to be done. If you finish your work early, you'll have some time for romance.

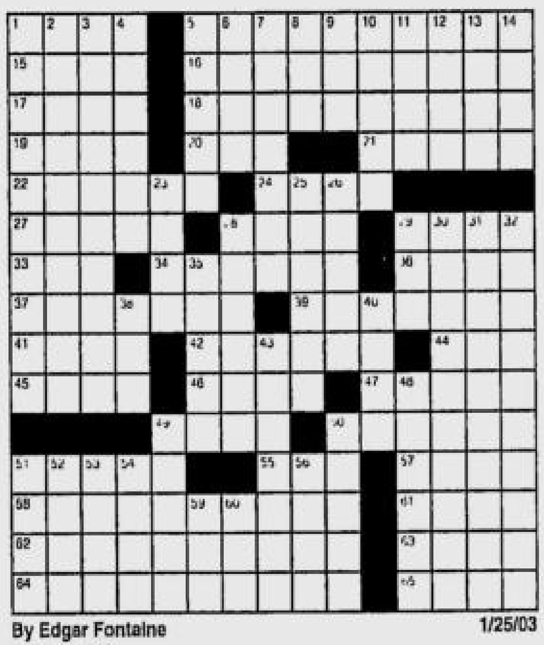
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Love is in the picture today, but make sure that it is with the right person and for the right reason. Lasting relationships are apparent if you know what you want in a relationship.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): With just a little effort you can turn any negative into a positive today. Face situations head-on and do what needs to be done.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You can pick up some interesting information if you get together with someone who is well-informed. Don't try to impress someone by promising something that you aren't likely to deliver.

Birthday Baby: Your dedication and drive will play a big role throughout your life. It isn't likely that you will ever bend or give in to any obstruction you meet along the way.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Edgar Fontaine
Dighton, MA

1/25/03

ACROSS
1 Mineral springs
5 In top-notch form
15 Fourth-down option
16 Martinique volcano
17 Sicilian volcano
18 Cause
19 Cavity: suff.
20 Lang. of Israel
21 Shows the way
22 Removes a block
24 Fails to be
27 "Key __"
28 In a sluggish way
29 Portent
33 Year in Acapulco
34 Lump in one's throat?
36 What cons do
37 Hide processors
39 Mustard in Clue
41 External: pref.
42 Lead source
44 Power wielders
45 British gun
46 Colonial black cuckoos
47 Botch
49 Hit with a bent leg
50 Gambling card game
51 Suspect story?
55 __ volente (God willing)
57 Distribute
58 Debate hosts
61 Saharan
62 Itemized analyses
63 Look after
64 With bated breath
65 Uptight

DOWN
1 Conjectures
2 Play the hypocrite
3 "Agnes Grey" author
4 German POW camp
5 Oriental nursemaids
6 Vocal inflection
7 Offers more
8 Compass dir.
9 & so forth
10 Hardy wheat
11 Venerable author of "On Times"
12 Zeno's home
13 Mall
14 Vietnamese holidays
23 Memorizing process
25 Cake servings
26 Drip-dry fabric
28 Mad
29 Ear: pref.
30 Performed the functions of a cleric
31 Making textual corrections
32 Jeanette MacDonald's partner
35 Cathedral instrument
38 Persona __ grata
40 Tibetan monk
43 Do little
48 Jailbird
49 Douglas and Cameron
50 "All That Jazz" director
51 Both: pref.
52 Bereft
53 Caesar's last date?
54 Actor Bridges
56 Sea eagles
59 PC workings
60 Digit on the line?

Friday's Puzzle Solved

B	A	D	E	N	■	E	V	A	S	■	P	L	O	D
E	R	I	S	A	■	L	E	N	O	■	L	I	M	O
R	E	S	T	I	N	P	E	A	C	E	A	M	E	N
Y	A	P	■	R	O	A	S	T	■	M	I	E	N	S
L	S	U	■	O	N	S	■	■	S	I	N	■	■	■
■	■	T	O	B	E	O	R	N	O	T	T	O	B	E
A	B	A	C	I	■	■	E	O	N	S	■	V	A	T
D	E	B	S	■	S	N	A	G	S	■	R	E	N	O
A	T	L	■	R	U	E	D	■	■	S	I	R	E	N
M	A	Y	B	E	M	A	Y	B	E	N	O	T	■	■
■	■	■	E	C	O	■	■	E	R	E	■	R	A	P
G	H	A	T	A	■	D	I	R	G	E	■	A	R	R
Y	O	U	R	P	L	A	C	E	O	R	M	I	N	E
M	I	R	A	■	A	L	O	T	■	E	R	N	I	E
S	L	A	Y	■	D	E	N	S	■	R	I	S	E	N

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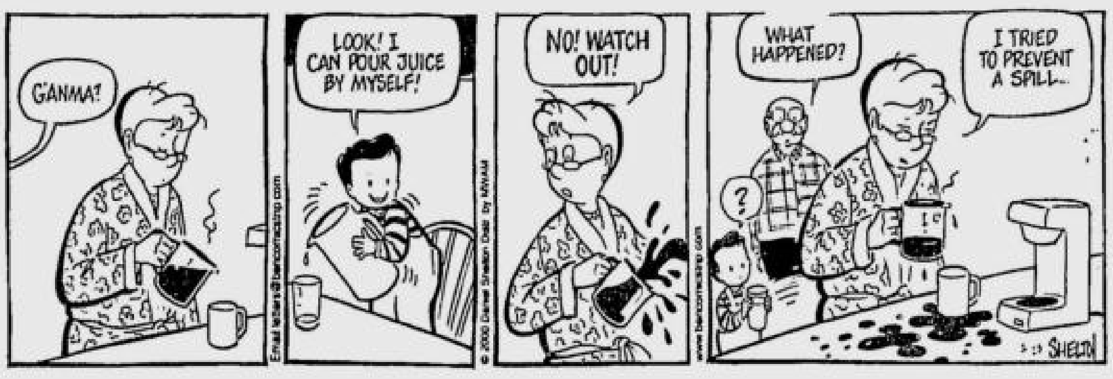
1/24/03

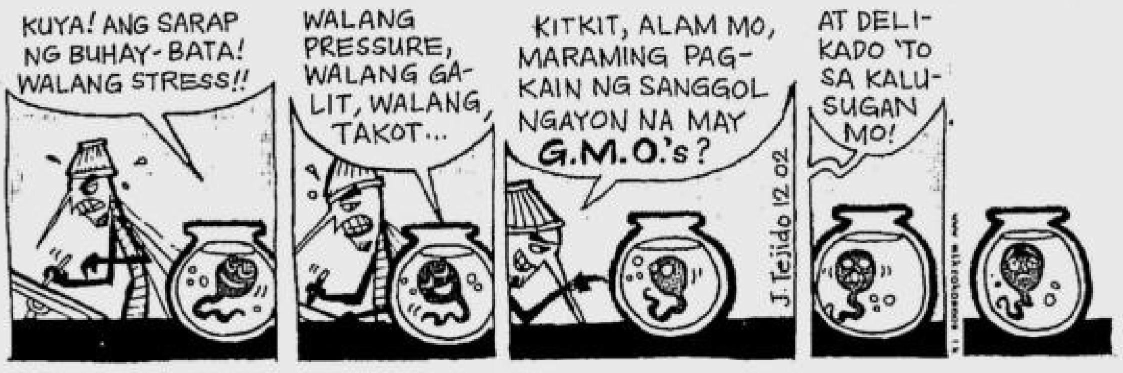
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


GANMA?
LOOK! I CAN POUR JUICE BY MYSELF!
NO! WATCH OUT!
WHAT HAPPENED?
?
I TRIED TO PREVENT A SPILL...
SHELTON

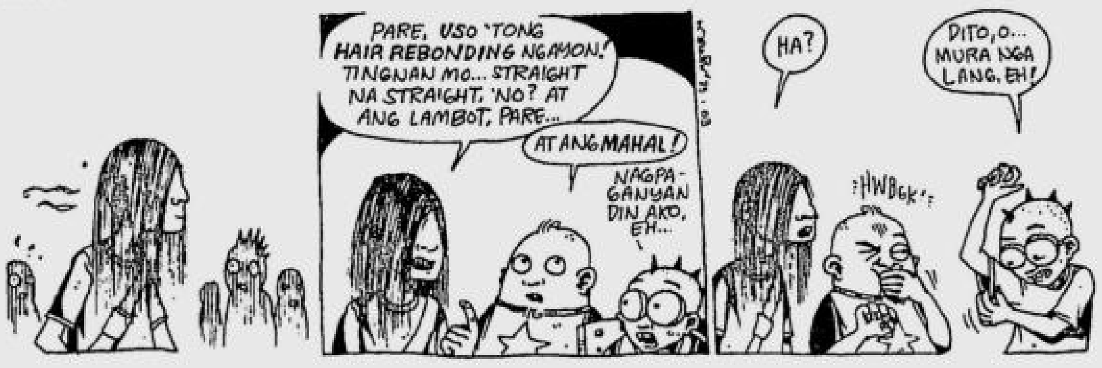
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


KUYA! ANG SARAP NG BUHAY-BATA! WALANG STRESS!!
WALANG PRESSURE, WALANG GALIT, WALANG TAKOT...
KITKIT, ALAM MO, MARAMING PAGKAIN NG SANGGOL NGAYON NA MAY G.M.O.'s?
AT DELIKADO 'TO SA KALUSUGAN MO!
J. Tejido 12 02

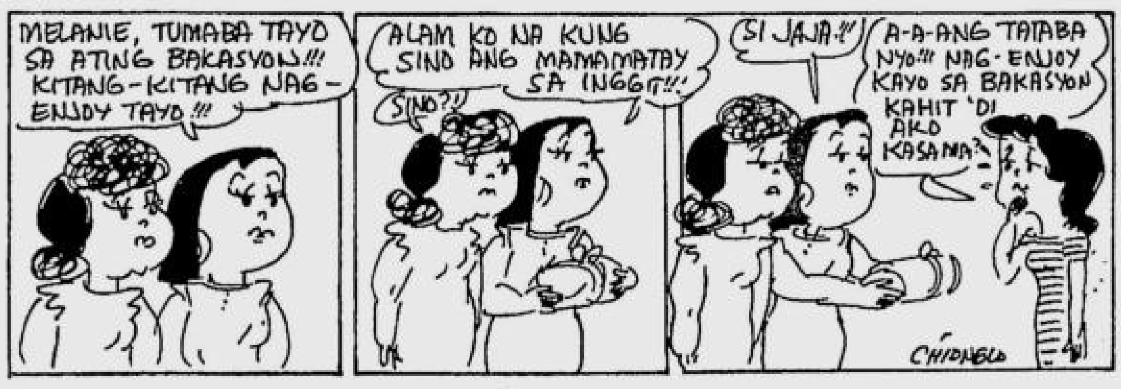
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


PARE, USO 'TONG HAIR REBONDING NGAYON! TINGNAN MO... STRAIGHT NA STRAIGHT, 'NO? AT ANG LAMBOT, PARE...
AT ANG MAHAL!
NAGPA-GANYAN DIN AKO, EH...
HA?
HWBGK
DITO, O... MURA NGA LANG, EH!

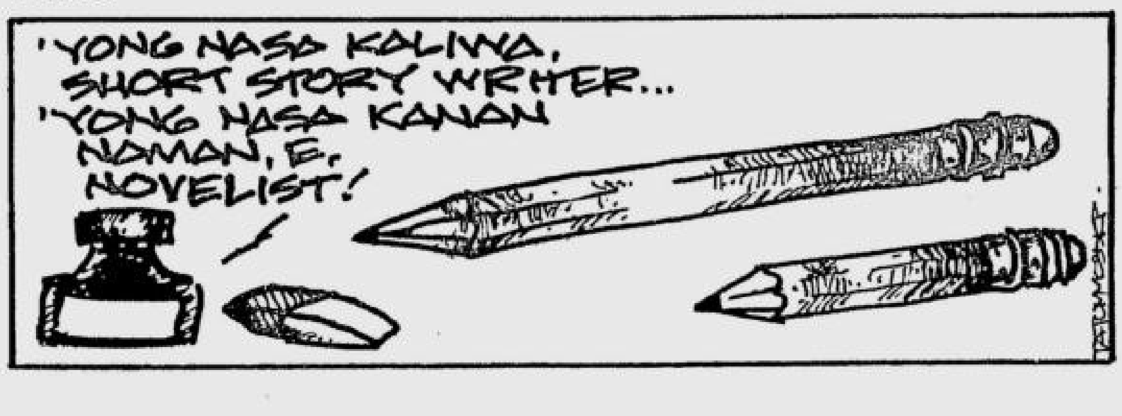
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MELANIE, TUMABA TAYO SA ATING BAKASYON!!! KITANG-KITANG NAG-ENJOY TAYO!!!
ALAM KO NA KUNG SINO ANG MAMAMATAY SA INGGIT!!!
SINO?!!
SI JAJA!!!
A-A-ANG TATABA NYO!!! NAG-ENJOY KAYO SA BAKASYON KAHIT 'DI AKO KASAMA?!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


'YONG NASA KALIWA, SHORT STORY WRITER...
'YONG NASA KANAN NAMAN, E, NOVELIST!

New productions energize film scene

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

AT 7:30 p.m. on Feb 1, Zhang Yimou's new film, "Hero," will be premiered by the Anvil Executive Club at Cinema 10 at SM Megamall.

Assassins

In the acclaimed period film, the ruthless King of Qin is set to become the first Emperor of all China, but assassins are hired to kill him. He promises wealth and power to anyone who can kill the assassins, and Nameless (Jet Li) comes forth.

The assassins, Broken Sword, Flying Snow, and Sky are played by Tony Leung, Maggie Cheung and Donnie Yen, respectively, while Zhang Ziyi is cast as Moon, Broken Sword's devoted servant.

On Feb. 1, the Anvil Executive Club, an organization of young Filipino-Chinese entrepreneurs, will also announce its nationwide search for nominees to its first Anvil Prize for Courage in Public Service. Call 726-7029.

Hit

Meanwhile, young stars Brittney Murphy and Ashton Kutcher have a hit in the new film, "Just Married," proving that new actors can upstage even established luminaries if they are given the right showcase.

In this instance, Murphy and Kutcher clicked because their stellar vehicle was geared to viewers in their youthful age group, making for great empathy. In fact, two-thirds of the people who saw the film in the States on its opening week were less than 21 years old.

"Just Married" clicked with them because it chronicles the beleaguered romance of Tom (Kutcher), a "lowly" traffic enforcer, and Sarah (Murphy), a wealthy writer. When they decide to get married, they're so mismatched that they experience a veritable "honeymoon from hell."

Spooky movie

Shifting to the horror genre, "Below" is a spooky movie set in a submarine during World War Two. The sub's captain dies under mysterious circumstances, and strange accidents begin to happen.

Later, the sub rescues three survivors of a torpedoed British hospital ship, and one of them turns out to be a woman. Soon, ghoulish apparitions appear. Is there any truth to the fable about a woman on a submarine bringing bad luck?

JET Li and Maggie Cheung in "Hero."

JALOSJOS. Lourna Pal's daughter comes into her own as a singer.

On top of everything, the submarine is unable to surface, and this puts everyone at risk of oxygen deprivation. Is it the lack of air that has helped conjure up the chilling noises and apparitions that the sub's crewmen are experiencing? "Below is written and directed by David Twohy.

Homecoming concert

Back from a nine-month concert tour abroad, the University of Santo Tomas Singers will hold a homecoming concert, "Amor y Amistad... Love and Friendship," at 6 p.m. on Feb 2 at the Philamlife Auditorim.

The group visited 11 European countries, the States and Canada, and won top prizes in four prestigious choral competitions in the Czech Republic, Italy, Germany and the Netherlands.

The UST Singers' homecoming concert is a benefit for the Philippine Association of Gerontology.

Lana Jalosjos sings at Chef and Brewer

There is no denying that she inherited her singing talent from her mom. Lana Jalosjos, daughter of lounge singer Lourna Pal, admits that singing came naturally to her.

Initially, though, Lana didn't want to take the same path her mother took. She enrolled in Hotel Management in college. But having watched her mother in the limelight, Lana had to try singing as well.

Lana joined the UP Concert Chorus, and auditioned for theater productions that included roles in "Hedwig" and "Rent." "Hedwig made me realize I really wanted to get serious about theater," she beams.

Lana also sings Streisand, blues, R and B, and pop. She sings at the Chef and Brewer Jan. 28 (Makati), and January 30 (Ortigas). Accompanying her at the piano is John Garcia.

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Most memorable dining adventure

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

VANCOUVER, Canada—One of the best sources of dining tips these days is the internet. There, one can see reviews of food critiques plus the popular choices of diners.

Cooking-show host

Here in Vancouver, the restaurant of choice is a place called Lumiere. The chef is a popular cooking-show host (on the Food Channel) named Rob Finnie.

My first fine-dining experience in Vancouver was at Le Crocodile. Delicious food! Then came a place called the Tea House which is in one of the most beautiful spots in the city, Stanley Park. Great food plus beautiful setting and view.

I could not imagine how anything could be better than those experiences, but Lumiere proved me wrong. It has to be the most memorable dining adventure I have experienced in my entire life. Here, when one talks of the best, Lumiere always tops everyone's list.

At the dimly-lit restaurant in the west side of Vancouver, I discovered that the menu had only four courses!

Tasting menu

This restaurant serves what they call a tasting menu. There were no *ala carte* dishes. There was a Chefs' menu, Seafood menu, Vegetarian menu and the Signature menu. Of course, the most attractive was the last one, so our hosts decided we go for it.

The meal consists of 12 courses. Each diner is given tiny portions complete with the wine that will complement each dish. All in all, there were four kinds of wine.

We started off with a fresh oyster in its shell. This was not included in the special menu. We then moved to a Pink Scallop Ceviche with (take note) Calamansi, honey tangerine vinegrette and basil oil.

We had the Cauliflower soup next. This was served with mushrooms, uni and beluga caviar. The solid ingredients were inside the soup dish, then the waiters poured in the piping-hot smooth cauliflower soup.

The next dish was Dungeness crab and lobster gratin with a root vegetable brunoise and béarnaise mousselin. It was followed by a Wild arctic Char with caramelized endive, white onion fondant and citrus beurre blanc. (Char is a fish similar to the Chilean sea bass).

We then had Braised beef short Rib Agnolotti with shimiji mushrooms and fresh herbs.

As we were slowly shifting to the main courses, so did our wines. We had two white wines at the start and two red wines toward the end of the dinner.

Next dish

The next dish was a Roasted Squab Breast with du Puy lentils, prosciutto and herb salad and caramelized onion jus. Next came the Roasted veal loin with sauted morels, roasted Jerusalem artichokes and salsify (whatever that is). This I flipped over.

Then, a Black Angus Beef Tenderloin with pan-seared foie gras, mashed potatoes and shaved black truffles. It does not get any better than this! (I compare it to Michael Jordan, Kobe Bryant and Shaq O'Neal playing three on three street ball. Who could beat that team?)

I was so happy when some of the women in our group were too stuffed to finish this dish. No one had to twist my arm to help them clean their plates.

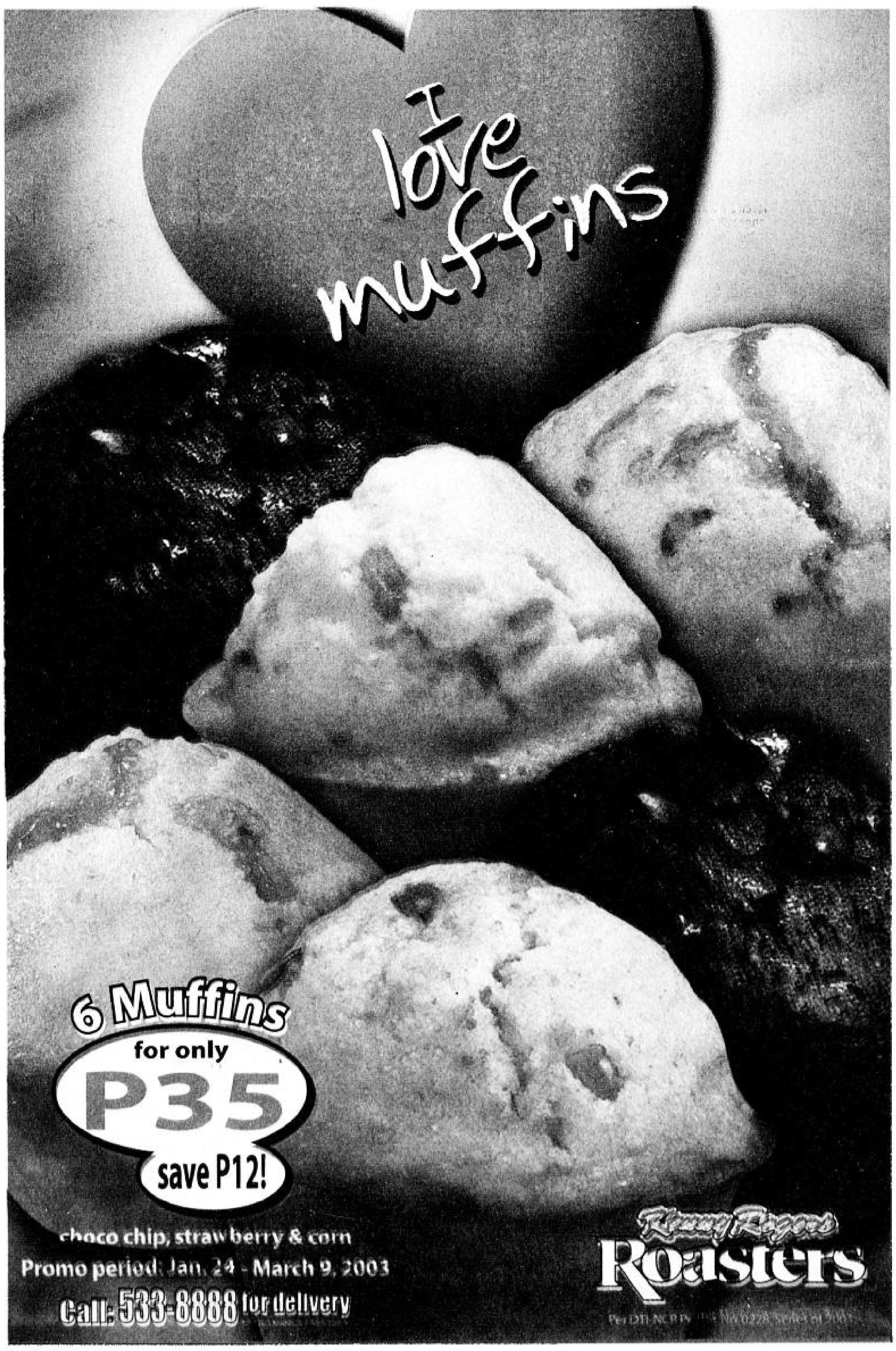
After the meal, we had a cheese plate with Canadian and imported cheeses served with fruit and nut bread. Before we moved to dessert, we were given Lemon sorbet with coronation grape soup to cleanse our palate. For dessert, we had Blackberry Moscato Compote with vanilla crème, lime zest wafer and lime leaf anglaise. We were also served Chocolate Chestnut Torte with chocolate sorbetto. Finally, we had chocolate and jelly. The desserts were good but if better, they would have gone perfectly with this superb meal.

Ingredients

As every dish was presented to us, the friendly waiter explained every detail of the preparation plus the interesting ingredients that went into it.

With the great company, that meal took four and a half hours! That was a super evening—totally new experience, close friends and relatives, super-delicious fine dining food, perfect matching wines and most of all, we

MOST/E4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Cruise wins $10 million lawsuit

LOS ANGELES—Tom Cruise has won a $10 million court award against a former gay porn star who claimed he had been the actor's lover, the star's lawyers said Wednesday.

Damages

Cruise—then married to Nicole Kidman—sued Chad Slater, a former "erotic wrestler" known professionally as Kyle Bradford, for $100 million in damages in 2001 after Slater made the claim to a French magazine.

But the "Top Gun" star later requested $10 million judgment after Slater defaulted on the suit last year, effectively throwing in the legal towel and threatening to file for bankruptcy should Cruise pursue the case.

"Tom is very, very pleased," his attorney Ricardo Cestero said following the judgment in Los Angeles Superior Court that provided the latest twist in a story that made headlines across the globe.

CRUISE. Vindicated.

"We requested $10 million recognizing that we don't know if this guy will satisfy any judgment, but it's important for Tom to be able to protect his reputation," he said.

Any cash Cruise does manage to collect from the soft-porn star, who described himself as a former "erotic wrestler," will be donated to charity.

Lover

Cruise filed the lawsuit on May 2, 2001, alleging that Slater told the gossipy French magazine Acustar he was the actor's lover. The story was re-published in several other publications around the world.

According to the suit, Slater "concocted and spread the completely false story that he had a continuing homosexual affair with Tom Cruise and that this affair was discovered by Mr. Cruise's wife, leading to their divorce." The lawsuit contained a strong denial that Cruise, who now dates Spanish star Penelope Cruz, was gay.

"While Cruise thoroughly respects others' rights to follow their own sexual preference, he is not a homosexual and had no relationship of any kind with Kyle Bradford and does not even know him," it said. *AFP*

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Jazz 'n' groove with City Lite 88.3 and Verni Varga

MANILA'S smooth jazz radio station, City Lite 88.3, has the cure for your workweek blues in "City Jazz 'n' Grooves" at Merk's Bar Bistro in Greenbelt 3 on Jan. 29 at 9:30 p.m., showcasing sultry diva, Verni Varga's inimitable jazz stylings.

Since her early days at the Calesa Bar of Hyatt Regency Manila, Verni has been entertaining jazz lovers from all over the world. With musical guru Rudy Francisco accompanying her at the piano, she has enthralled all types of audiences with her versatility and vocal acrobatics.

"Jazz 'n' Grooves" is presented by City Lite 88.3, The New Isuzu Fuego 4x4, Dove Cream Bar, MasterCard, Antares Merlow from the Wine Company and Merk's Bar Bistro.

Jay Llamas remembered

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

JAN. 10 was a sad day for the members of the Association of Former Flight Attendants of Philippine Airlines (Affap). It was texted to us that Marilou Ruiz Llama's son, Jay was shot to death at the corner of Buendia ave. and Taft ave. at 4:30 p.m. He was only 26, a bright young man in a hurry.

Three sons

Marilou was a PAL flight attendant for many years. After getting married, she and Ramon Roco Llamas had three sons: Raffy, 31; Jay; and Mon, 20.

Jay attended Zobel La Salle in Alabang and was accelerated. He read a lot. Marilou remembers a story about him: In prep, after taking a written exam, he went around the classroom to teach his classmates the right answers.

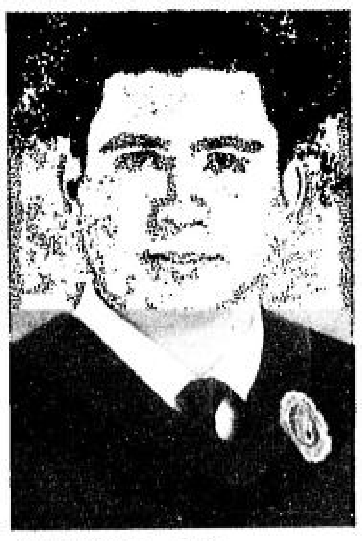
She raised the three boys well. She taught them to love animals. They were into football and basketball, and their house was open to their friends in United Parañaque.

Law studies

Jay was a consistent dean's lister. At the Ateneo de Manila University, where he completed his law studies, he was in the top 25 among 175 students. Last September, he took the bar exams, the results of which will be known this March. He was planning to work for his dad's cousin, presidential aspirant Raul Roco.

While at the Ateneo, he fell in love with a classmate, Sid Castro, 26, who is in the top three in the Ateneo's batch of law graduates. Her mother is Belen (Puyat-Reyes) Castro. Sid never left Jay during the wake, she was there constantly accompanied by her mom, dad and two sisters. Half of Jay's ashes was given to her but both urns (the other half of the ashes went to Jay's family) are deposited at the columbarium of Santuario De San Antonio Parish Church in Forbes Park. *(To be concluded)*

Contact Mandy at 522-5185 or 89 and 5221905 or CF 0916-7060-130.



LLAMAS. Dean's lister.

AT left is Daks Tanjuatco, Aquila Legis, during the necrological services. From right are dad Ramon, mom Marilou, girlfriend Sid, brother Raffy, grandma Mercedes, youngest brother Mon, aunt Millie and relatives.

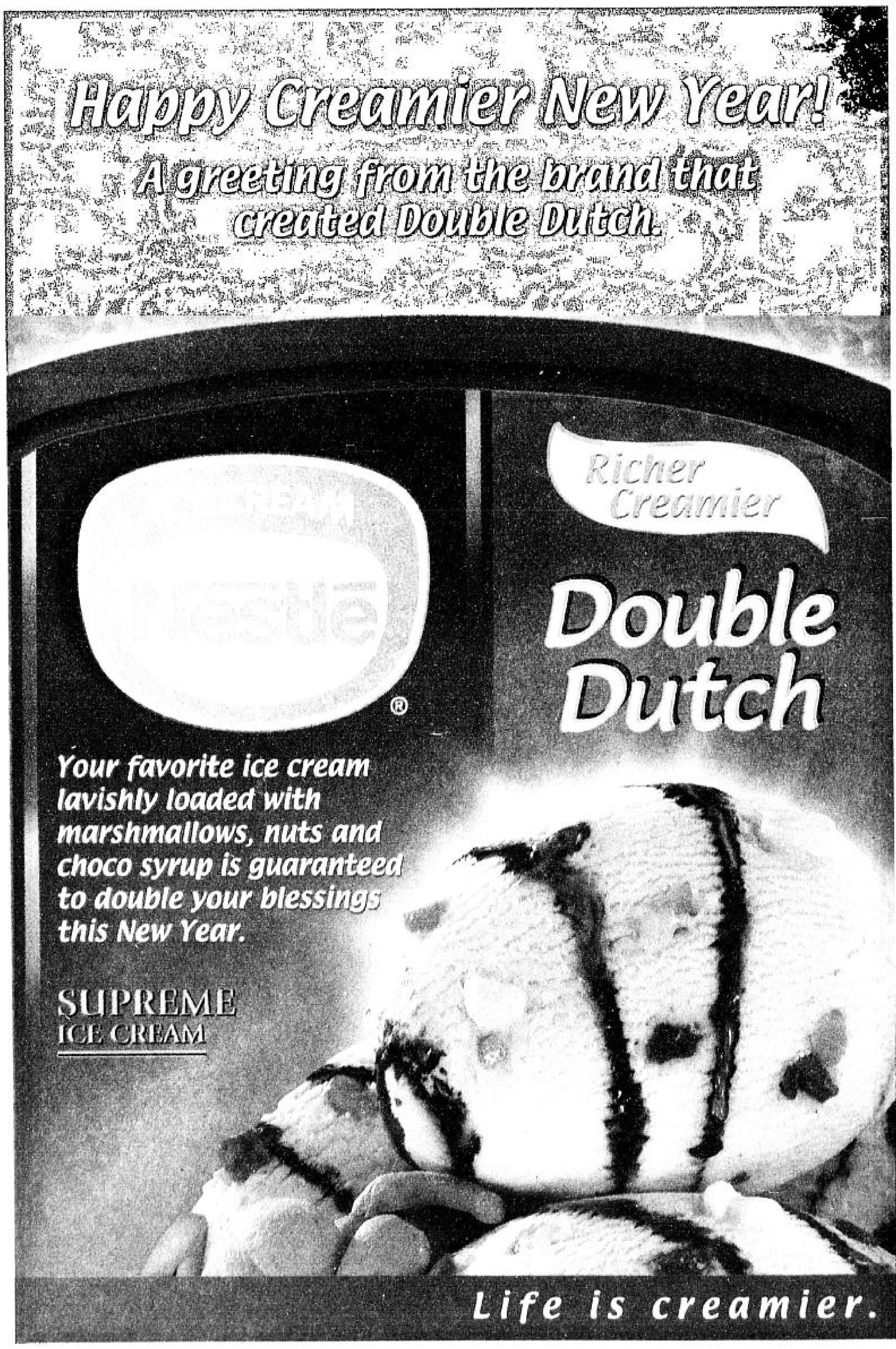
Most memorable . . .

From page E3

were guests. "*Lalong sumarap ang pagkain.*"

So, if you ever come this side of the world, save up for what would very likely be your most memorable dining experience. It was mine.

Happy eating!



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WHAT'S INSIDE:

An Icy Swim Page 2
Friends Forever Page 3
Story: Saving the Trees Page 4
The Lunch Box Page 8

Ateneo kiddie thespians stage

"Fiddler on the Roof"

By Luigi Manzo
JI Correspondent
Ateneo de Manila Grade School

PUT TOGETHER 60 talented kids, lots of artistically-inspired grade school teachers in a whoohooo-cool auditorium and you have...dat-dada-daaa...a charming grade school play like the Ateneo Children's Theater's (ACT) "Fiddler on the Roof."

You can catch it soon at the Ateneo's Henry Lee Irwin Theater along Katipunan Road in Quezon City. This classic Broadway musical will be playing there on Jan. 31, Feb. 1, 7 and 8. Ateneo chose the production to celebrate the Year of the Family.

GHOST STORY? Not at all. Tevye (Mik Afable, right) plays a trick on Golde (Denise Fonseca) with "ghost's" (Meg Coronel) help.

Not familiar with the title? You'll probably know some of the songs. Who can forget the cheerful tune of "If I were a rich man..." or the poignant memorable song "Sunrise, Sunset"?

Dennis Araullo, acting director, said the story is about love for family, trust and unwavering faith in God.

The Musical

"Fiddler on the Roof" is based on the short story "Tevye and His Daughters" by Sholom. The music is by Jerry Bock, lyrics by Sheldon Harnick, and the screenplay is by Joseph Stein.

Set in 1905, "Fiddler on the Roof" takes place in Anatevka, a small Jewish village in Russia.

The story revolves around the dairyman Tevye and his attempts to preserve his family's traditions in the face of a changing world. When his eldest daughter, Tzeitel, begs him to let her marry a poor tailor rather

Ateneo kiddie/ p. 6

THE cast of "Fiddler on the Roof" chill out during a dress rehearsal.

cope
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Harbin, China
Ontario, Canada
Singapore, Singapore

He dances, too

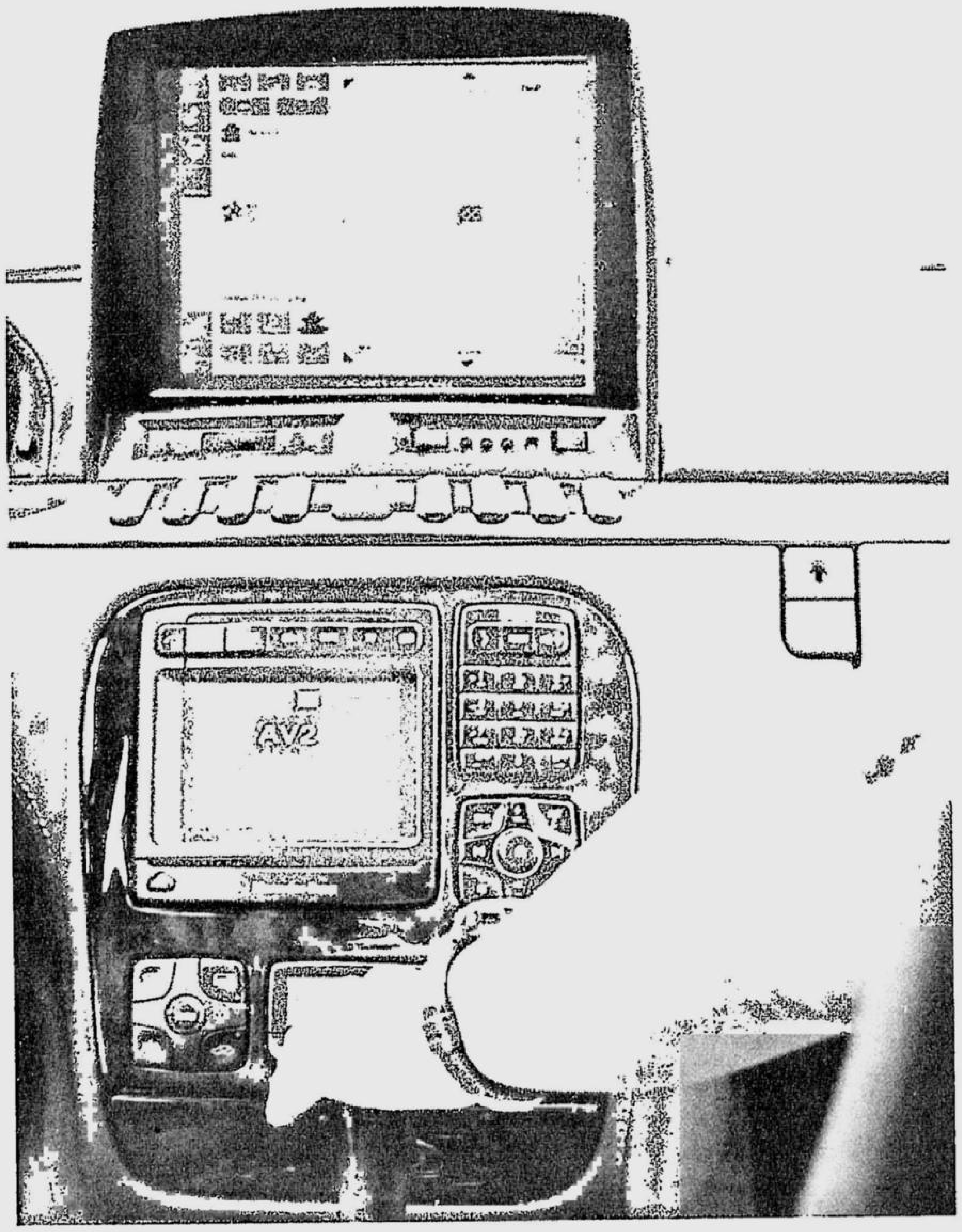
"ASIMO," the world's first robot that walks like a human, dances with Malaysians in Kuala Lumpur. The 52-kilogram, 1.2 meter-tall robot talked, climbed stairs and demanded applause from the crowd during a show in the Malaysian capital as part of its Asia Pacific tour. Some of Asimo's 39 "siblings" are currently "employed" as receptionists and infotainment guides by seven companies, including IBM in Japan. *Reuters*

Off for an icy swim

AN 83-YEAR-OLD Russian woman celebrates after taking part in the winter swimming event in Harbin, China, Sunday, Jan. 12, 2003. With temperatures as low as -10 degrees Celsius (14 degrees Fahrenheit), competitors took to the water with only their swimming trunks during the swim. The ice capital of China, Harbin hosts a series of ice festivals and winter sports competition to boost tourism during winter months. *AP*

The Planet Spotters

WESLEY Fraser, left, and Dan Milisavljevic, two Canadian university students, have helped a team of astronomers discover three new moons around Neptune. The students worked with J.J. Kavelaars, of the National Research Council of Canada, who co-led the project with Matthew Holman of the Harvard-Smithsonian Astrophysics Center. *AP*



Hi-Tech Dashboard

HIGH bandwidth Universal Mobile Telecommunications Systems (UMTS) gadgets are installed inside a Mercedes-Benz car being displayed in Singapore. It is the first car with integrated 3G-UMTS service worldwide which enables live video and audio transmission in a moving car. *AFP*

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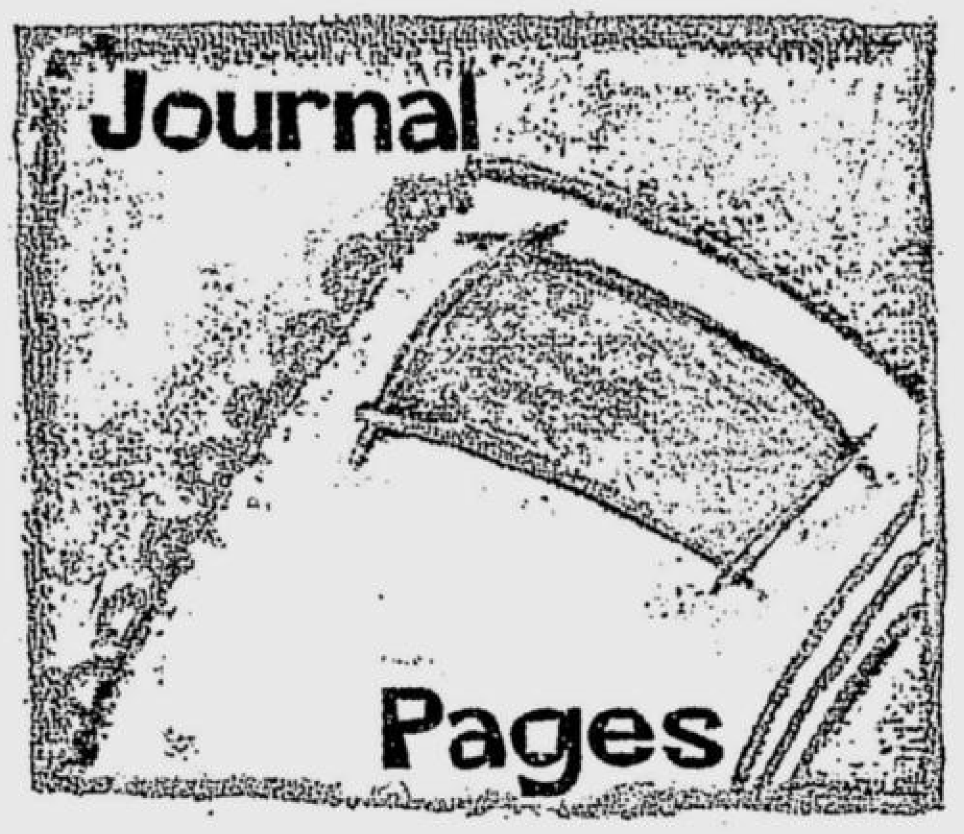
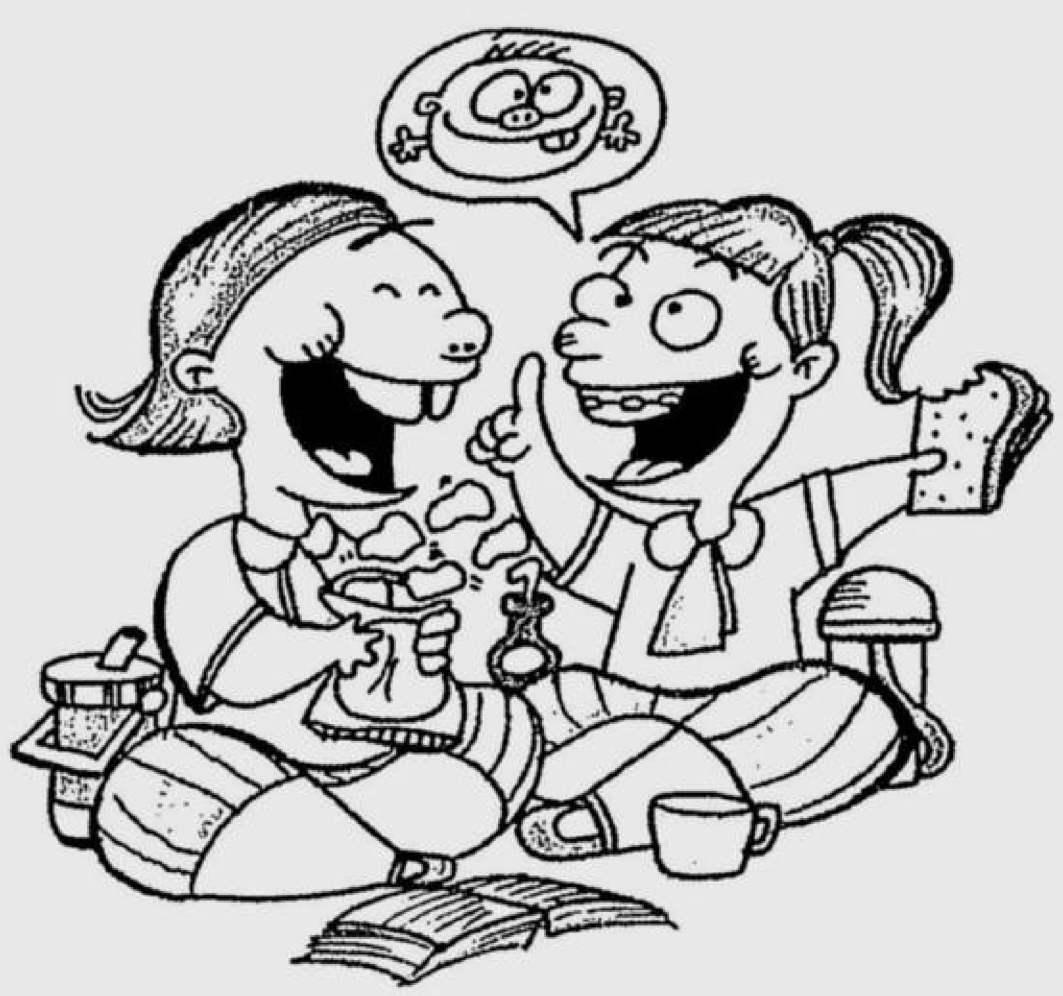


Friends Forever

By Maritoni Tolentino & Stephanie Tendero
Miriam College Grade School
Quezon City



WE are from Grade 5 Section Tambuli. In our class, everyone has a *barkada*. In our *barkada*, we share some secrets; and our interests like playing the piano, drawing, using the computer and many more.

Our other two friends are Fleur Radovan and Leanna Rosete. In our school, when it is recess and lunch time, we always eat together. We also help each other in times of need.

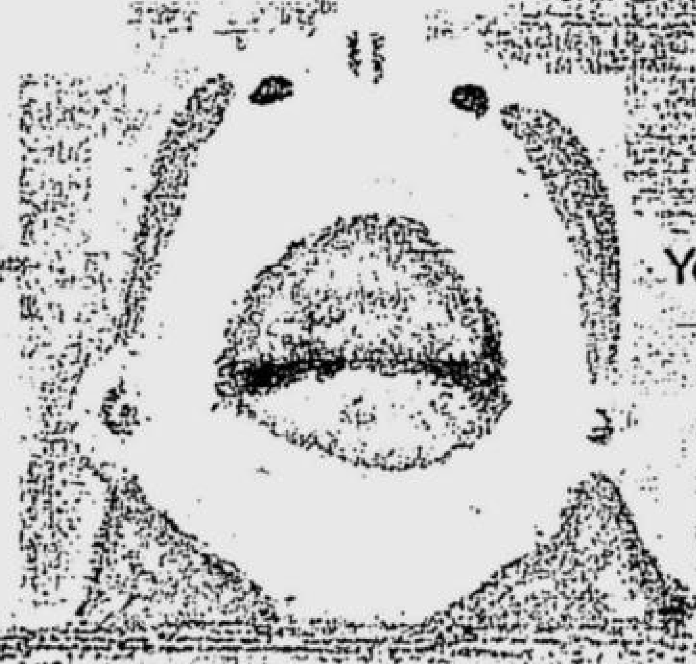
During school vacations, we play and have fun together. Our *barkada's* favorite motto is "Together we stand, together we fall" because it fully describes our friendship.

In good times and in bad times we are always there for each other. Our friendship is like a chain that never breaks.

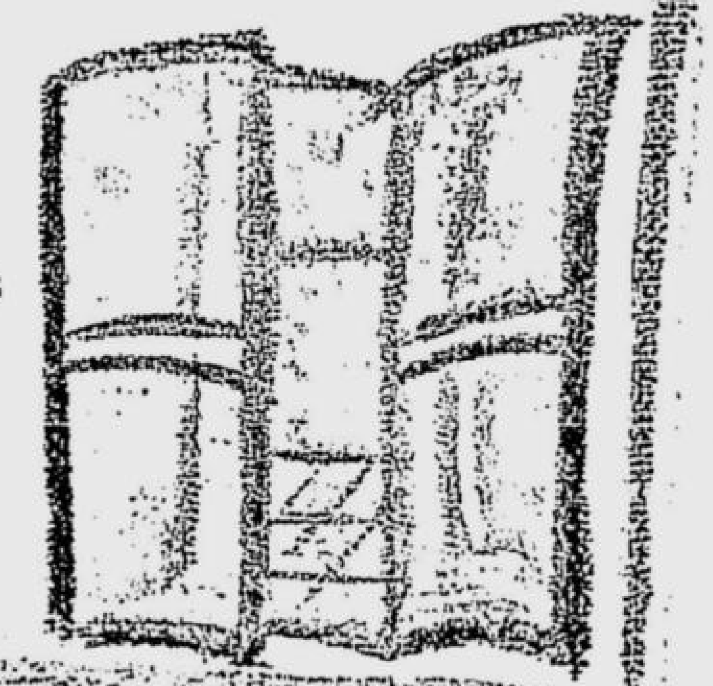
We hope that our friendship will never end. We pray to God that we will still know each other and still be friends until we grow old.

Sound Familiar ?
Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers



You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!



A Steph B. Fan

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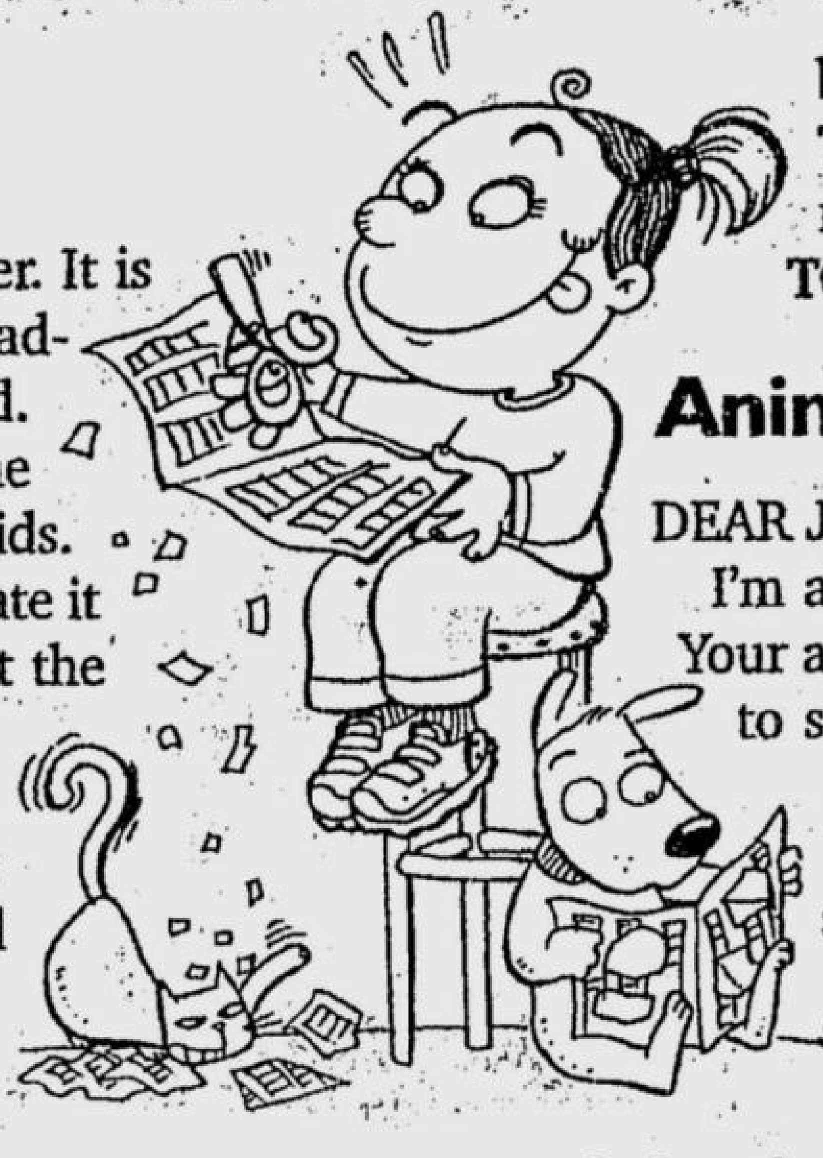

Anime Violence

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Junior INQUIRER

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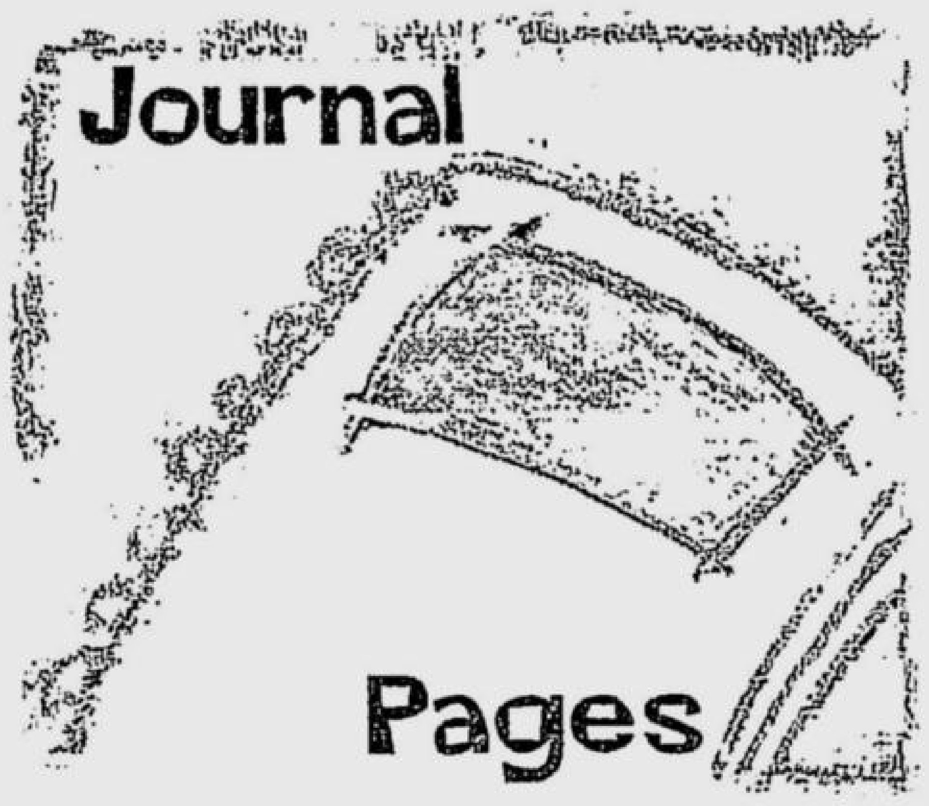
Journal Pages



By Maritoni Tolentino & Stephanie Tendero
Miriam College Grade School
Quezon City

WE are from Grade 5 Section Tambuli. In our class, everyone has a *barkada*. In our *barkada*, we share some secrets; and our interests like playing the piano, drawing, using the computer and many more.

Our other two friends are Fleur Radovan and Leanna Rosete. In our school, when it is recess and lunch time, we always eat together. We also help each other in times of need.

During school vacations, we play and have fun together. Our *barkada's* favorite motto is "Together we stand, together we fall" because it fully describes our friendship.

In good times and in bad times we are always there for each other. Our friendship is like a chain that never breaks.

We hope that our friendship will never end. We pray to God that we will still know each other and still be friends until we grow old.

Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

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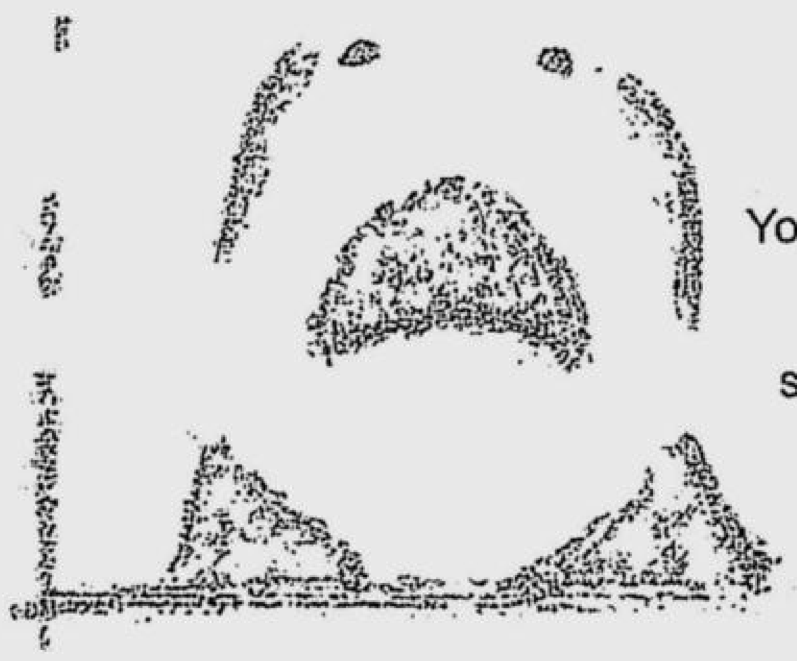

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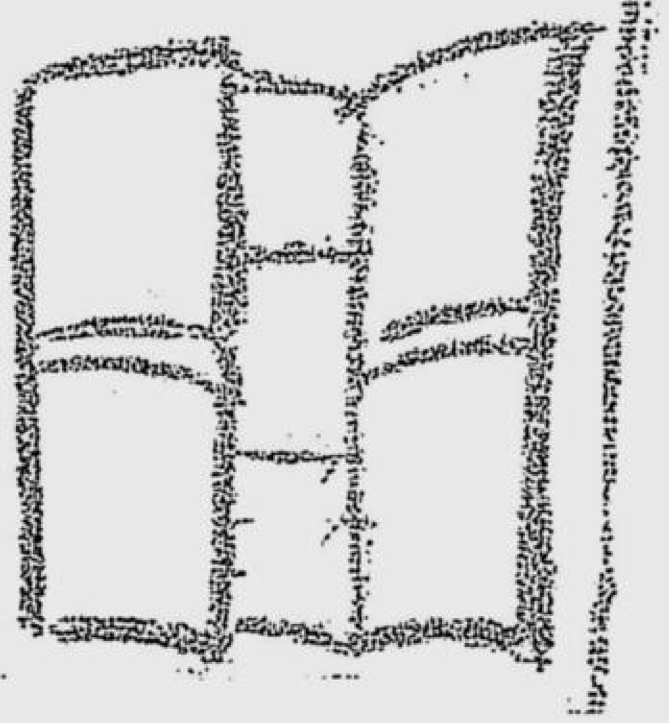

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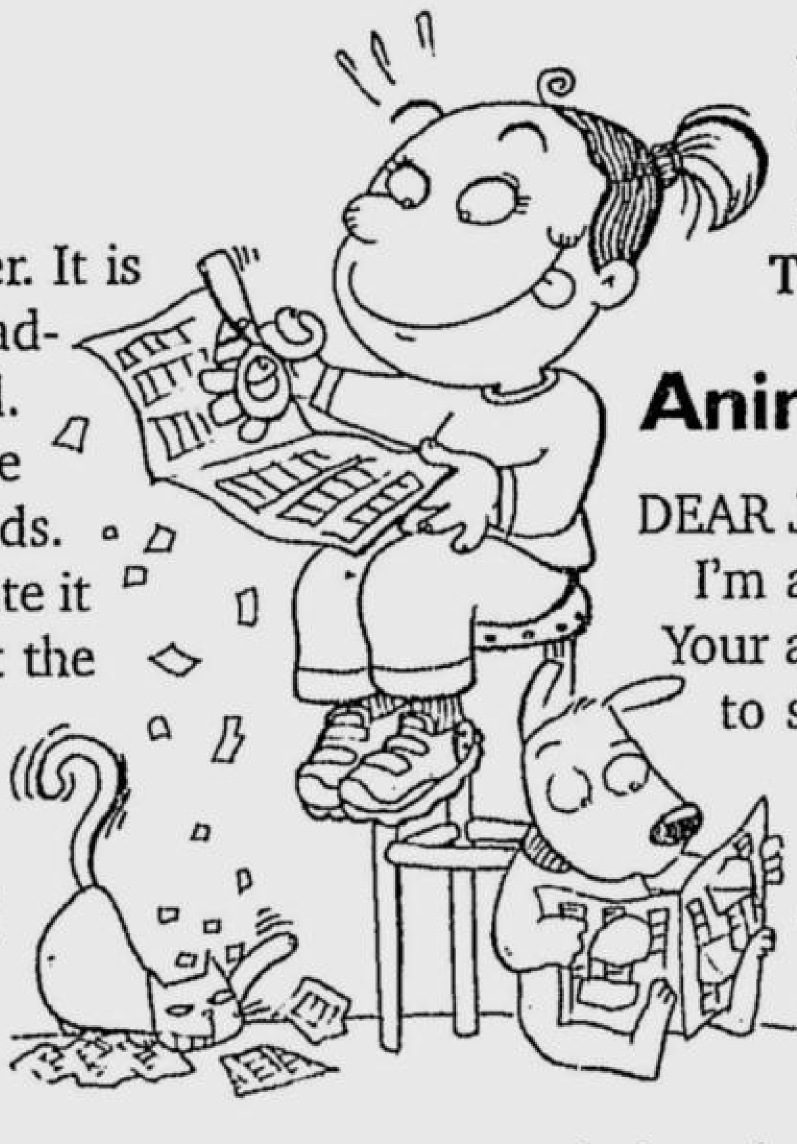

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FOR KIDS BY KIDS

SAVING THE TREES

“A Back-to-School Missi

Story by Ralph Angelo V. Ty
Illustrations by Paolo Lim

PETER Francisco is a boy who likes plants and trees. He loves planting seeds and taking care of them until they grow up. Peter wants his own garden someday.

When summer vacation came, Peter visited his grandparents who live near a lush forest. He loved walking among the trees and stopping to look at plants he has never seen before.

One day, Peter was walking through a narrow footpath when someone called his name.

“Peter!” said the voice.

“Who are you?” said Peter.

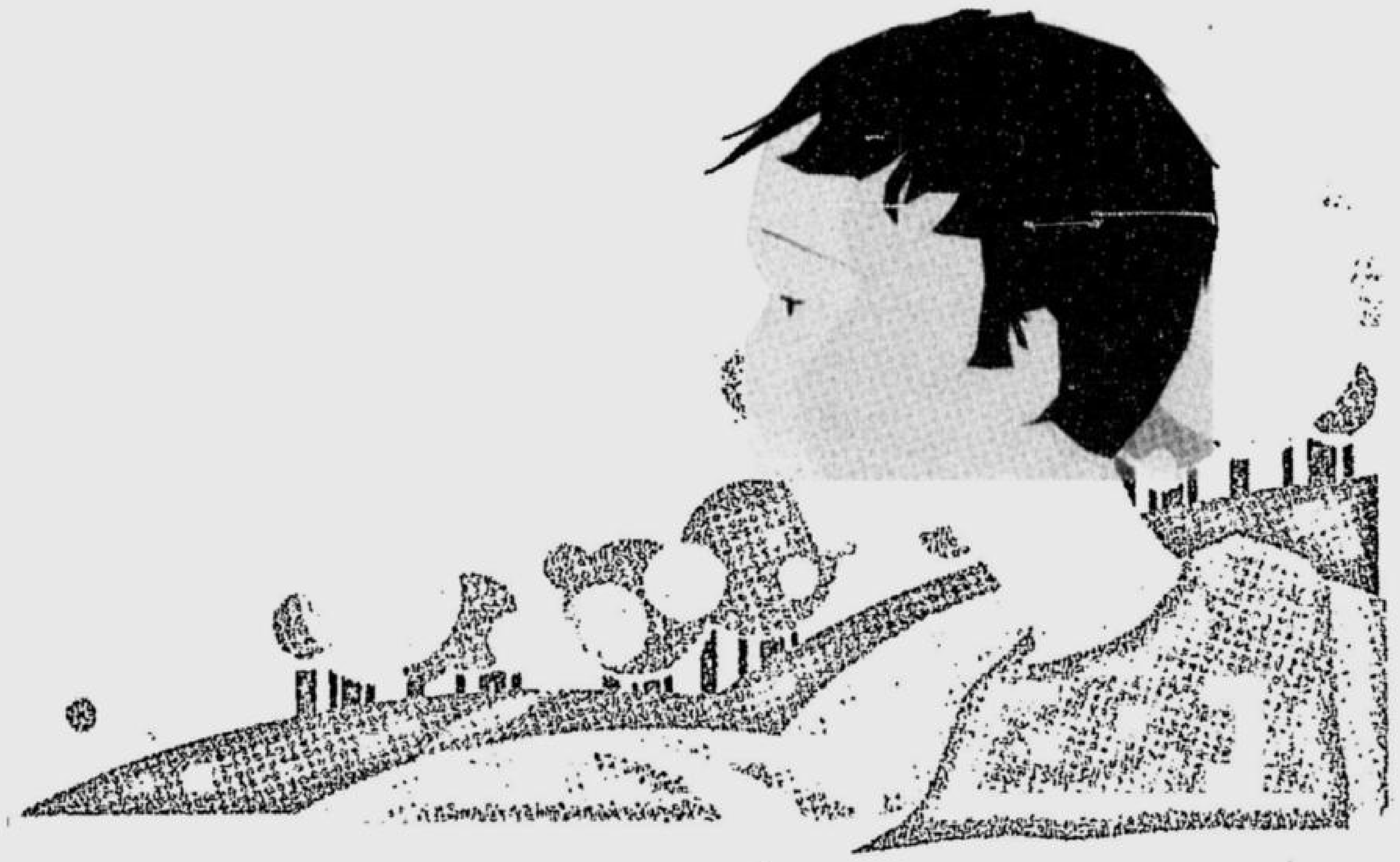
“Peter! Peter, help us!” said the voice again. The voices seemed to come from different directions but Peter saw no one.

“Who are you? Show yourselves,” he said.

Then a green light shone through the trees. Peter looked up and noticed that the trees had faces. Peter gasped.

“Peter, help us, and help our family to grow,” said an old tree. “Help us. Many of us were cut down, burned and destroyed.”

“A green light shone through the trees. Peter looked up and noticed that the trees had faces. Peter gasped.”



“How did you know my name?” Peter whispered.

“You were only a baby when your grandfather took you to this place. He told us where you came from and who you are,” said the old tree.

“Your grandfather loves us very much. He loves us more than his own life and we know that you love our kind,” said another old tree. “We will show you.”

The trees twisted their leaves, their branches and their vines and reached out to Peter.

“Hold on to us,” said the old tree.

PETER touched the branch nearest him. He couldn’t explain why or how, but when he closed his eyes he saw images of people cutting and burning trees. There were also people throwing garbage in the forest. Then he saw a fleeting image of a child planting seeds.

“How could they do that?” Peter asked. “They are destroying Mother Nature...but who is the child?” Peter asked.

“He was your grandfather.
planted us when he was 6 years

“Now I understand why you
to save the other trees,” Peter sa

“Yes,” the trees answered.

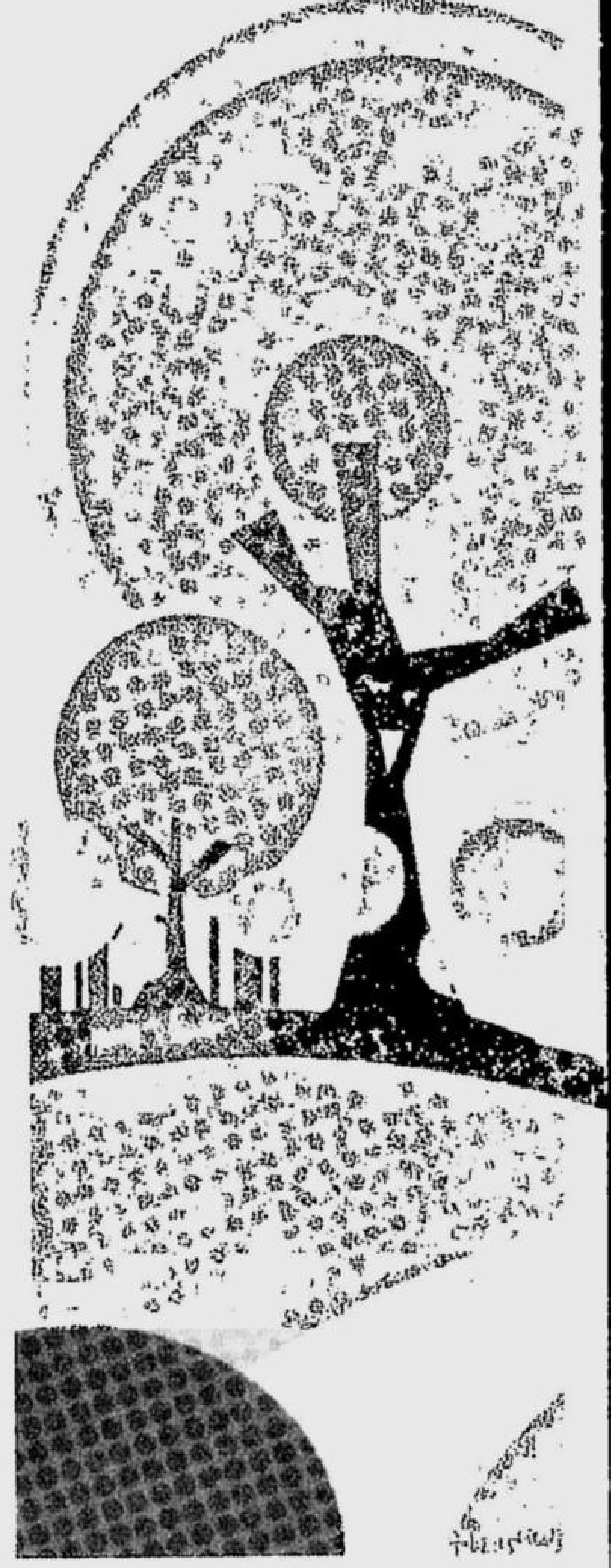
“I am going to save the trees.”

“Thank you,” said the trees, an
leaves of the trees start to fall ar
him.

In a blink he found himself s
ing in front of his grandpa
house. The rest of his vacation
happy. But when school started a
Peter knew he would have to a
his mission to save the forest.

ON HIS first week back in schoo
ter wrote poems about how to
and save nature. On his second
back, he wrote stories about n
living things that need the tree
the right way to take care of all
His works were published in
school organ on the third week.

The teachers and principals



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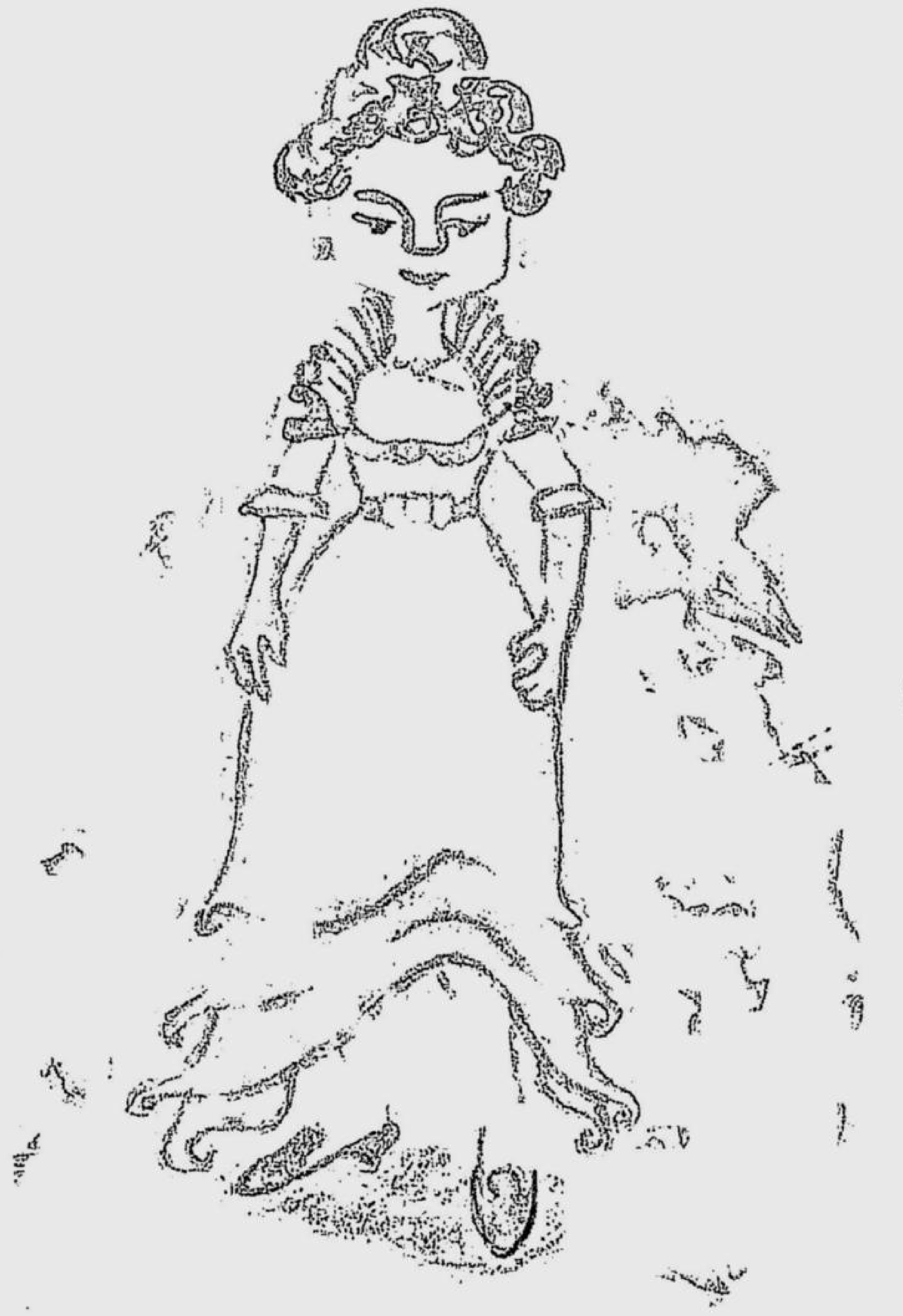
different schools read their school organ and liked it. Soon, Peter published a book titled "Brain and Nature." Anyone could borrow a copy of his book from the city library. The mayor read the book, too. He liked it and bought many more copies and gave it to friends.

The mayor was so pleased he granted Peter a wish. Anything to make Peter happy.

So, Peter wished for trees to be planted along all streets and vacant spaces. After a week, the city was green and lush. And Peter was happy. His mission had been accomplished.

***Ralph**, 10, lives in Muntinlupa City. Reading JI inspired him to write poems and stories.*

***Paolo** is a part-time illustrator, sometime graphic designer and full-time procrastinator. He is a member of Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan (Ang InK).*



ANG SAPATOS NI DARLA

Ni Frances L. Valderrama
Guhit ni Jose Badelles

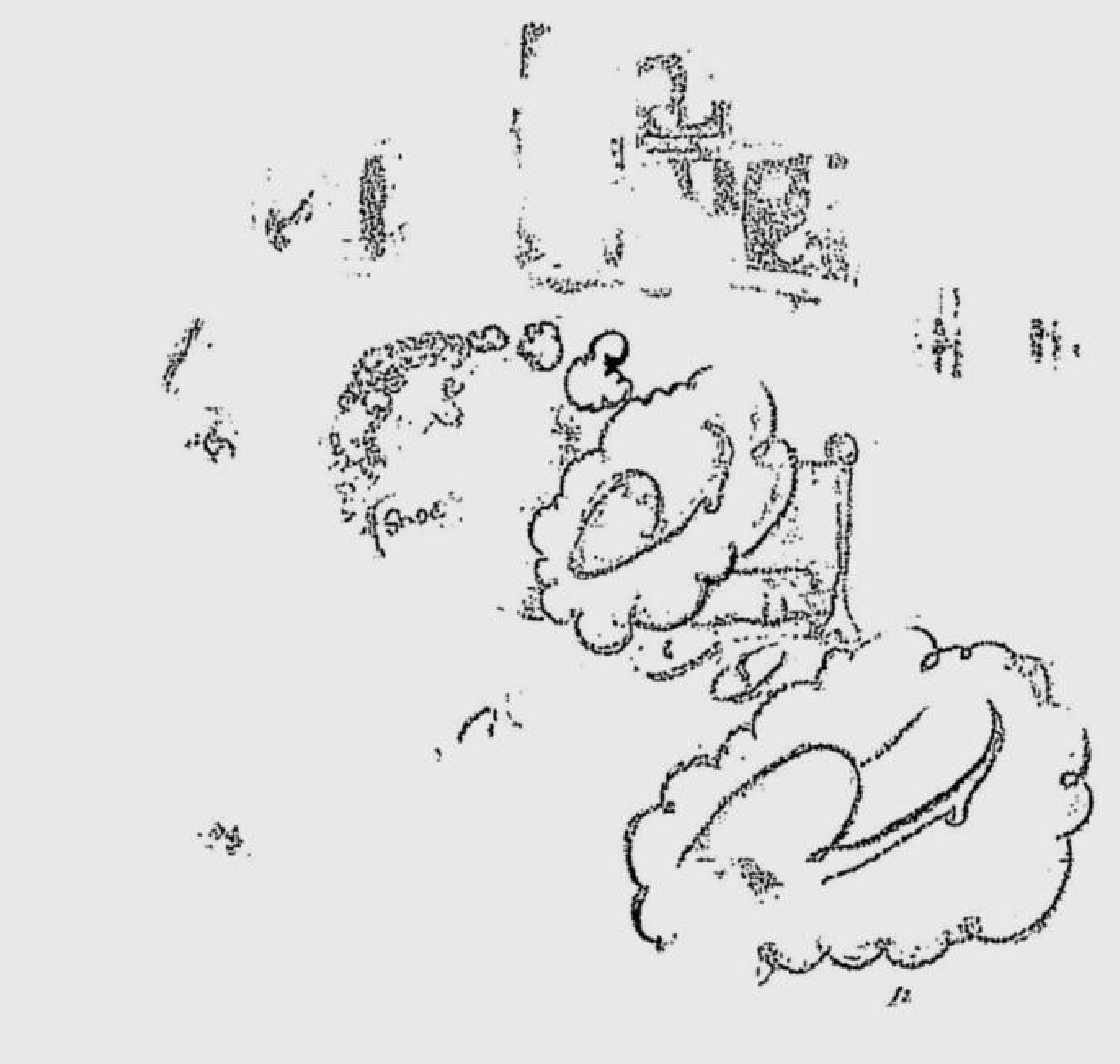
ANG sapatos ni Darla ay maganda. Ito ay may limang kulay: itim, dilaw, dalandan, berde at puti. Isang gabi, ito ay kanyang nilinis at pinaganda. Ang kulay nito ay nagpalit ng kulay. Ito ay naging kulay asul. Ito ay nagmadyik. Kinailaliman ng gabi ito ay nagpapalit uli ng kulay, at kinaumagahan nagising si Darla. Hindi naman pala nagpalit ng kulay and mga sapatos niya dahil panaginip lang ni Darla iyon.

Umiyak si Darla. Nang gabing iyon, napanaginipan ni Darla na nagpapalit-palit ang kulay ng kanyang sapatos.

Mula noon, madalas na niyang mapanaginipan ang pagpapalit ng kulay ng kanyang sapatos. Kaya kahit hindi ito totoo, masaya pa rin siya.

*Si **Frances** ay nag-aaral sa Colegio Sta. Isabel of Laguna.*

*Si **Jose** ay may tatlong pares ng sapatos na hinihiling niyang mag-iba ng kulay upang tumugma sa kanyang anumang nararamdaman.*



Ateneo kiddie thespians stage "Fiddler on the Roof"

(from page 1)

than the middle-aged butcher that he has already chosen for her, Tevye must choose between his own daughter's happiness and those beloved traditions that keep the outside world at bay.

Meanwhile, there are other forces at work in Anatevka, dangerous forces which threaten to destroy the very life he is trying to preserve.

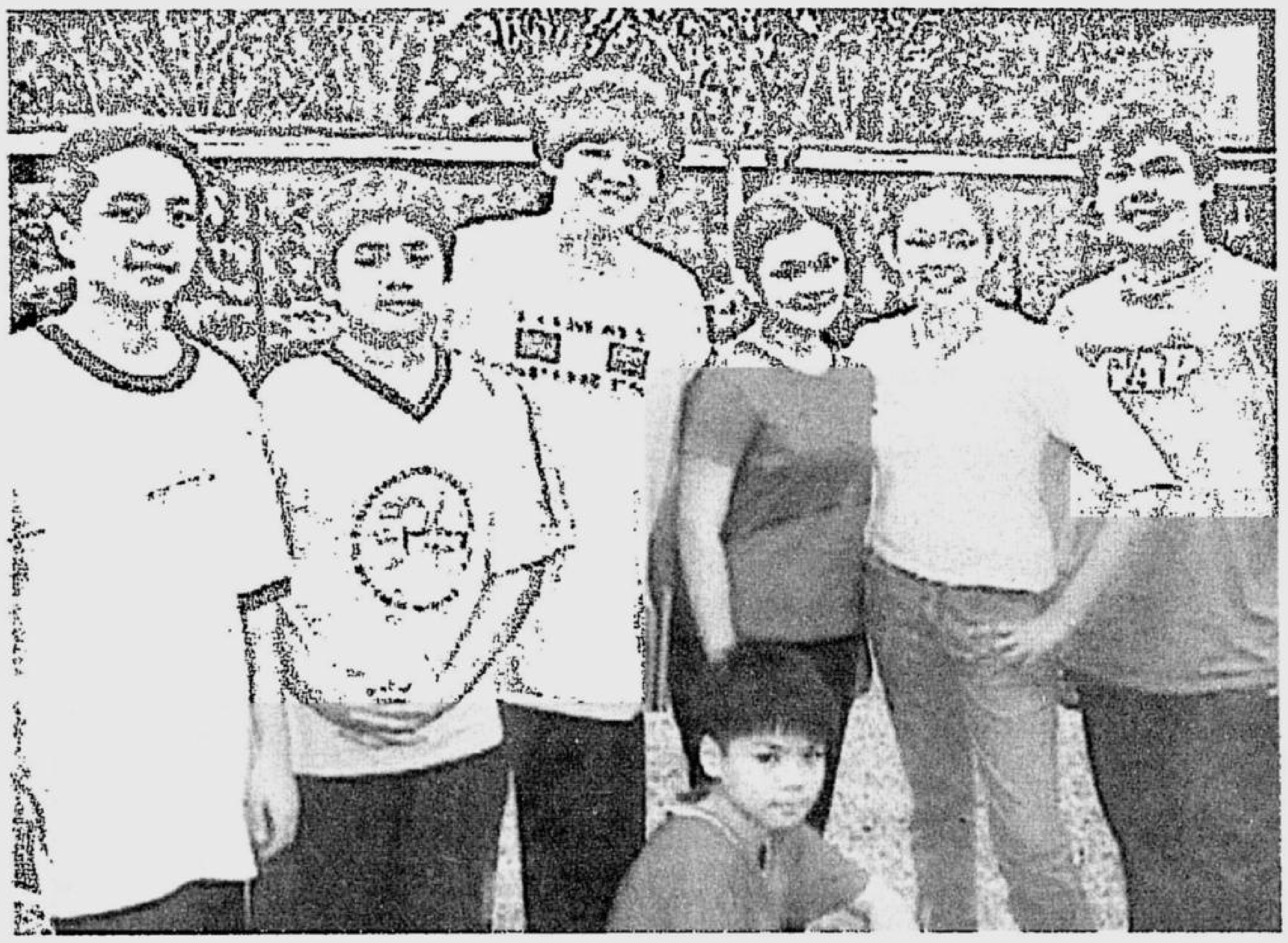
Young Actors

The actors in this presentation, Ateneans from Grades 5 to 7, have shared funny and humiliating experiences together, like missing their cue in the middle of an intense scene, or being in the wrong place at the wrong time, or just going blank and not knowing what to do next.

KP Lee and Mik Afable, Grade 7 students and veteran actors of the ACT, take turns playing the lead character Tevye.

As early as August last year, they had been memorizing their lines and songs, learning them by heart so they feel and think exactly like the character they are portraying.

Playing Tevye is very challenging but both actors said that fitting into the role was easy because they have Teyve's impulsiveness and would have acted like he did were they faced with the same crisis.



BREAK TIME! Fun time with (L-R) Raeywen Nabas, DR Gaerlan, KP Lee, Anna de la Cruz, Denise Fonseca, Mik Afable and Kevin Pareja.

Daniel Ruperto (also called DR) Gaerlan took a while to think of himself as the Rabbi (Catholics have priests. Jewish people have Rabbis.) but he took the role of the old man enthusiastically.

Paul Respicio says he is not his character Lazar Wolfe who is so hungry for attention. But he says he is also forgiving like his character. Noisy and impish Jammi Pino acts his opposite as the indecisive and cowardly Motel.

Young Actresses

Twelve-year-old Denise Fonseca and Anna Carissa de la Cruz play Golde, Tevye's niggling wife, while Clarisse Laureles and Michelle Santiago play Tzeitel, the dutiful eldest daughter.

The girls enjoy their parts as strong-willed women who voice their thoughts and make life-changing decisions.

Tippy Kintanar finds it amusing pretending to be Hodel, the lovestruck daughter, while Billie Puyat struggles as the rebellious daughter Chava. Meg Coronel and Reah Marinez think they're as witty and amusing as Yente, the matchmaker.

The young actresses study at Ateneo's neighbor schools: St. Bridget's and Miriam College. They also went through a rigorous acting, singing and dancing audition set by ACT in their schools.

The girls say that despite the difficult schedule and training, they have lots of fun.

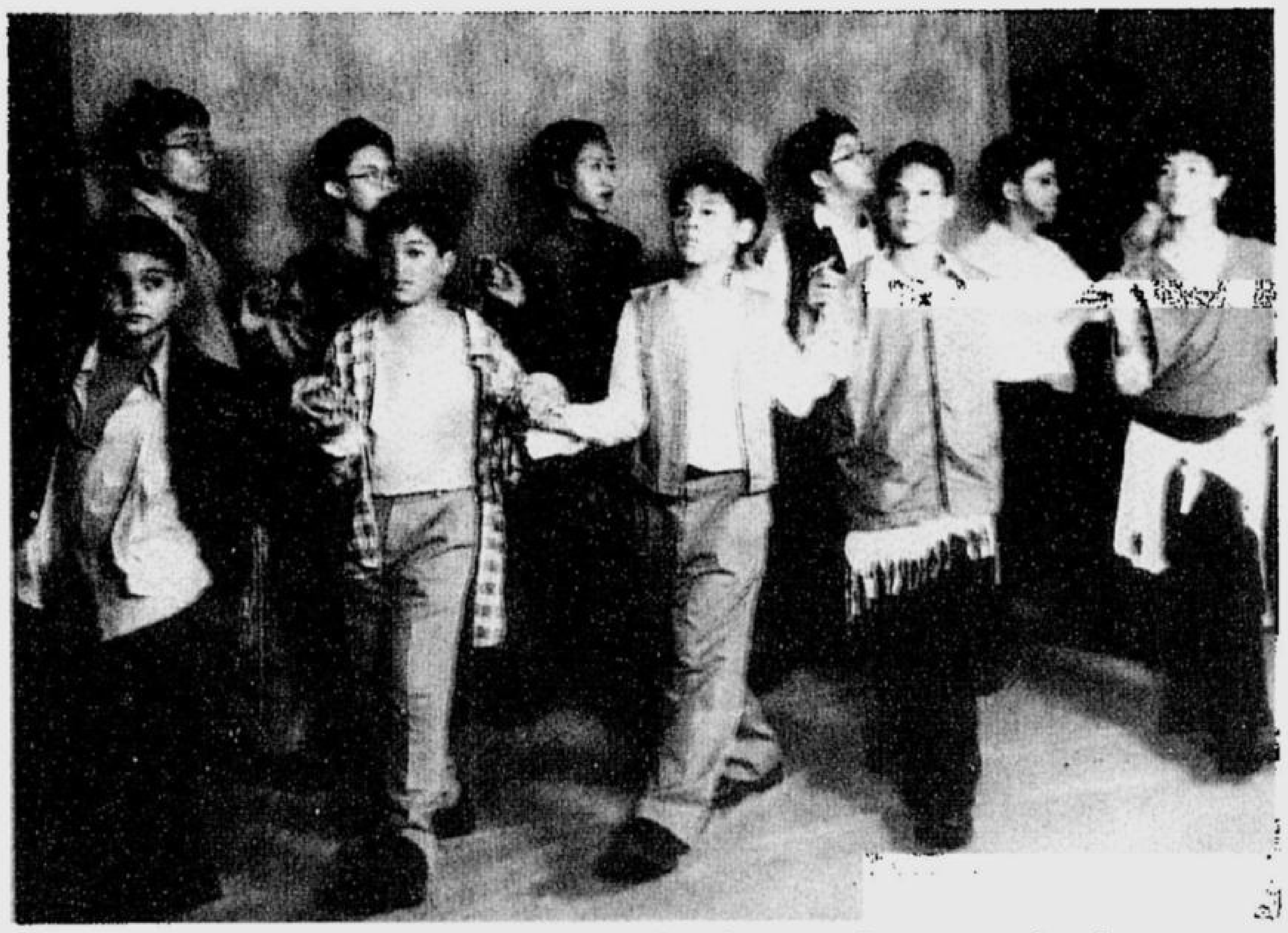
Backstage Fun

Everyone is just having a grand time doing what they're best at and what they enjoy most which is acting. They have grown accustomed to each other's quirks, temper and frequent pranks.

The day JI visited them, they were hanging like monkeys in the jungle gym, teasing and playing around like kids. Well, they *are* kids!

While waiting for their scenes, the girls were on one side, giggling and chatting endlessly about things definitely not meant for boys to hear. The boys, acting like true gentlemen, minded their own business. However, when they are called on stage, they conscientiously drop everything and run. At this early age, they have learned discipline and commitment to work.

Gala performances are on Jan. 31, Feb. 1, 7 and 8 at 6 p.m. and matinee shows are on Feb. 4, 5, 6 and 8 at 8 a.m. Contact Mr. Jervy Robles at 426-6001 locals 7238, 7239 or 7240 for ticket sales.



THE young actors not only memorized songs but practiced some dances, too.

Kids 'r'rrific

IRENE and Ivy jam in the music room of their Las Piñas City home.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Double Delight

Irene and Ivy double the music, dancing and tidiness at home and in school

By Eline Santos

IRENE and Ivy Concepcion love to sing and have even been labeled "future divas" by some schoolmates at Our Lady of Pilar Montessori Center in Las Piñas.

They alternate in joining singing contests and bringing home medals. In the LAPPRISA Inter-School Competition for instance, Irene won third place in 2001 while Ivy won second place the following year.

The 13-year-old fraternal twins take voice lessons at Laguna D' Braj, enjoy R&B music and like too many singers to mention. "Kelly Rowland, Keith Martin, Christina Aguilera, Jennifer Lopez, Destiny's Child, TLC...there are so many!" Irene enumerates. They sometimes perform in school presentations.

The Perfectionists

"We sang 'When You Believe' in our school's book fair," shares Ivy, who is the friendly freshman level representative in their student council. "Being twins, we're easily recognized," she smiles. "We're sort of popular."

The twins also dance, and helped choreograph moves for a cheerleading competition.

Despite a bit of rivalry over things like who gets to use the phone first, having a twin can be cool.

"We're perfectionists," says Irene. "Our mom likes us doing the cleaning around the house."

In cleaning their room, Irene explains that they first shake the dust off the bed and fluff the pillows. Afterwards they sweep and dust. "And anything that isn't in its place, you put back," she ends.

Wonder Twin Powers

Their only complaint is when people compare them to each other.

"Sometimes it hurts," Irene tells of the times when people compare her negatively to Ivy. This spunky girl doesn't let it keep her blue though.

"I believe in myself," Irene declares. "Even if I lose in other contests, I still keep trying."

Ivy, who likes to draw, wants to be "either a fashion designer or an interior designer someday. I want to create something unique."

"We have our own way of communicating when it's just the two of us," Irene says.

Sometimes words are not even needed. "We can sense a lot of things in each other," Irene continues. "She can sense when I'm hungry. When I get sick, she also gets sick. When I'm wrong, she's the one who tells me the truth."

R U 'RRIFIC?

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're 'Rriffic' or know someone who is, fill out the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC' Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces
cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a free Junior Inquirer T-shirt!

Kid 'r'rrific

nomination form

I nominate: ______________________
____

Age: ______________________

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because: (Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)
____
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She/he lives at ______________________
____
____

and studies at ______________________
____

Her/his contact number is: ______
____

Sender's Name: ______________________
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Sender's Age & School: ____________
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Sender's Address: ______________________
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Sender's Contact No. ______________________
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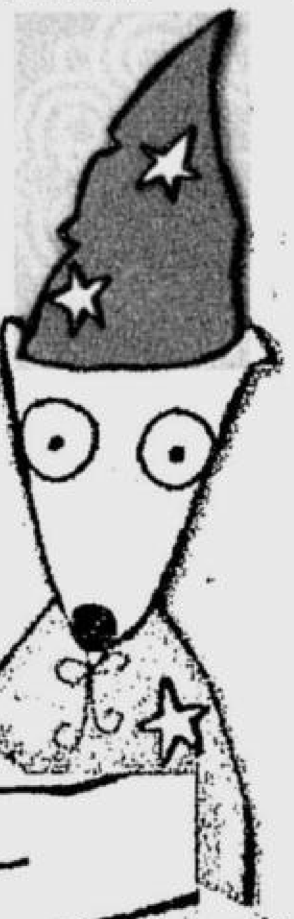
THE LUNCH BOX

by Katrina B. Villa



FAIRY TALE FUN HUNT

G M D R A G O N D T I N P B O
K I N E W L F O E N C H R E G
P R I N C E A M L E A R I S N
B O E T D U I K F A D T N O O
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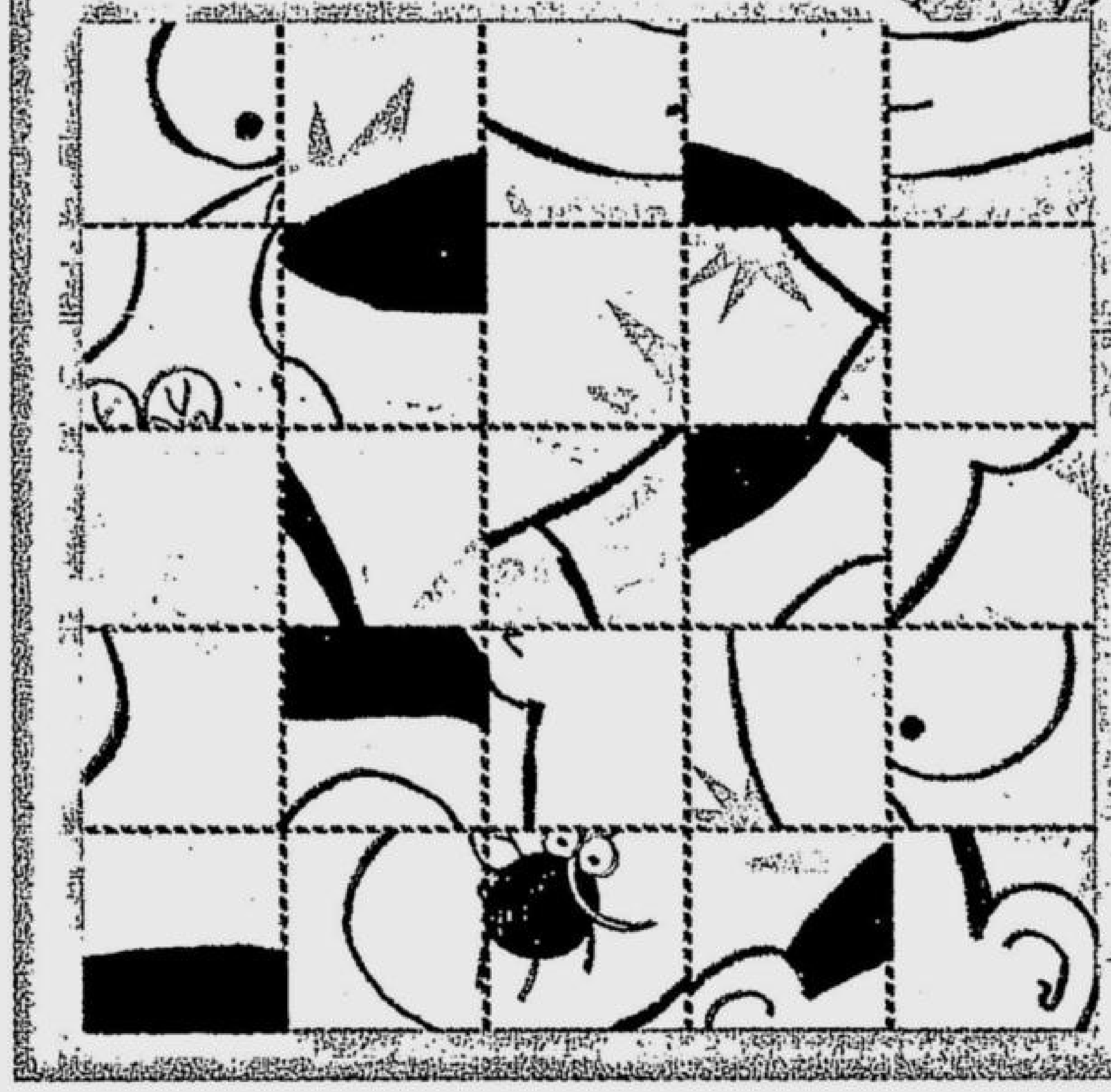
S F A I R Y V N O B A S E R E
T A L U D T A G N O R E S E S
W I T C H I M A S I F P S N C
S D R A G W I Z A R D I R I N

CAN YOU FIND THESE FAIRY-STORY CHARACTERS?

WIZARD
ELF
FAIRY
PRINCESS
PRINCE
DRAGON
GNOME
DWARF
WITCH
OGRE
QUEEN
KING



PICTURE PUZZLE

Cut along the dotted lines and put this picture together!

JEWEL JUMBLE

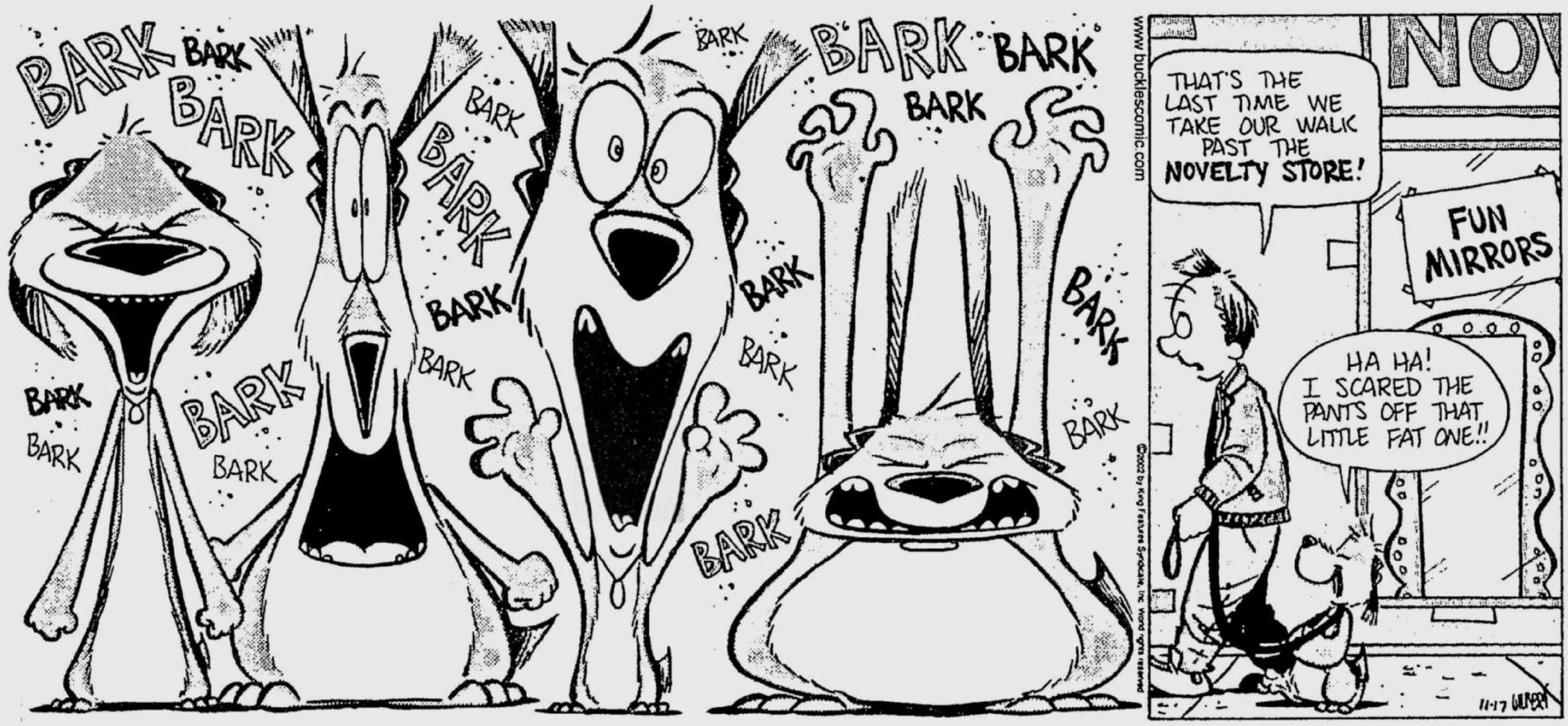
Un-jumble these letters to see what jewels Nina has discovered in the chest!

1 MEARLED
2 LERAPS
3 MANIDOD
4 POAL
5 RIPASHEP

ANSWERS: 1. EMERALD 2. PEARLS 3. DIAMOND 4. OPAL 5. SAPPHIRE

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT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BARK BARK BARK
BARK BARK
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BARK BARK BARK
BARK BARK
BARK BARK
BARK BARK BARK
BARK BARK
THAT'S THE LAST TIME WE TAKE OUR WALK PAST THE NOVELTY STORE!
NOV
FUN MIRRORS
HA HA! I SCARED THE PANTS OFF THAT LITTLE FAT ONE!!
11-17 GILBERT

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JUNIOR INQUIRER

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 2003

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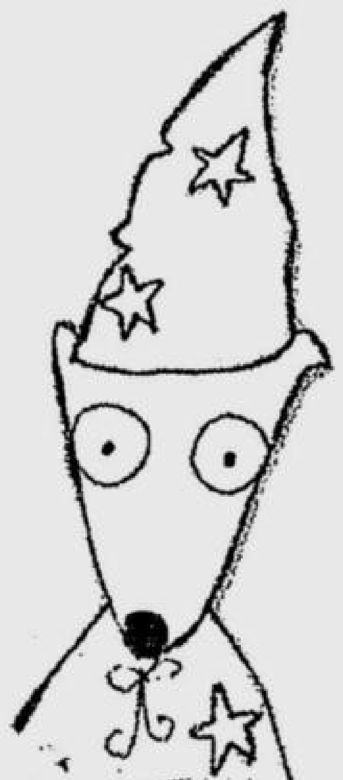
by Katrina B. Villa



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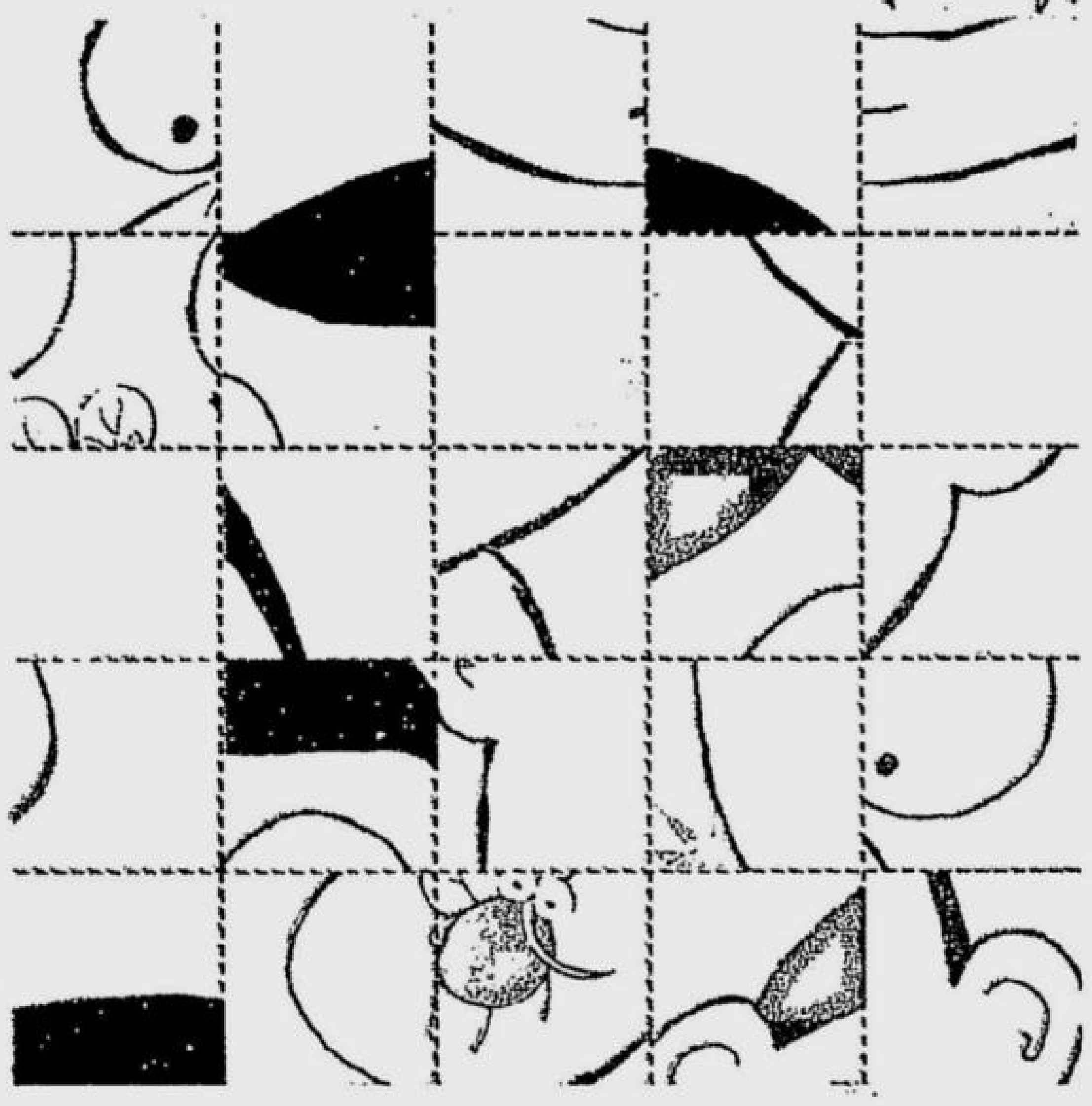

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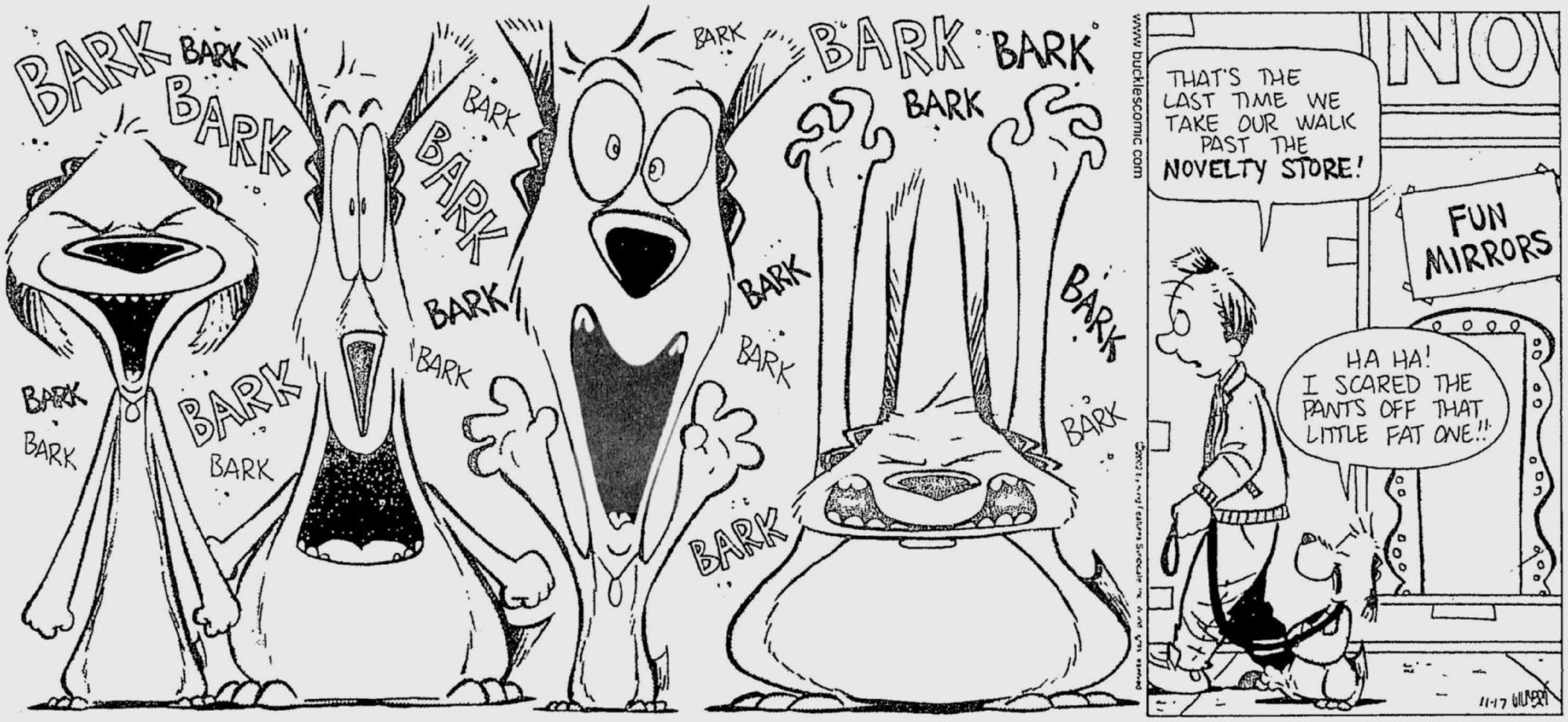
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